MINUTES.

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

1870-71.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland,

AT ITS

ADJOURNED MEETING IN BELFAST,

NOVEMBER, 1870;

AND ALSO AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN LONDONDERRY,

JUNE, 1871.

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1871.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

SESSION I.

BELFAST, TUESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1870.

Constitution.

THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met on this day, instead of Tuesday, the 8th of November, as had been fixed at the annual meeting—pursuant to a circular issued by the Moderator—and was by him constituted with devotional exercises.

Roll.

When the Roll was called, the following members answered to their names, viz :—

THE REV. J. A. CHANCELLOR, MODERATOR.

OF THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.—*Ministers*—J. Hart, J. D. Houston, J. Brown, J. Dick, D.D. *Ruling Elders*—Samuel Lyons, James Stewart, Samuel Clugston, David Guthrie.

OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.—*Ministers*—A. Savage, G. Douglas, H. M'Faddon, G. Lillie, W. S. Ferguson, T. Hart. *Ruling Elder*—Thomas Henry.

OF THE EASTERN PRESBYTERY.—*Ministers*—T. Dick, W. Russell, the Moderator, Dr. Houston, R. Allen. *Ruling Elders*—James Martin, Hugh Blair, John Potts, John Hewitt, Samuel Cheyne, Hugh Simms.

OF THE WESTERN PRESBYTERY.—*Minister*—R. Nevin.

Postponement of Meeting.

I. The Moderator explained the circumstances which constrained him to postpone the meeting of Synod from the 8th to the 15th of the month.

On motion of Dr. Dick, seconded by the Rev. A. Savage, the conduct of the Moderator in the postponement was unanimously sustained.

Hours.

II. The same hours for the sessions were adopted as at last annual meeting, viz.—from 10 *a.m.* till 3 *p.m.*; and from 7 *p.m.* till such time as may be found convenient or necessary.

III. The Clerks of Presbyteries were instructed to have a scale of Preachers' Appointments till the end of June, and an order of business, ready by to-morrow morning—to meet for this purpose at 5.30 this evening.

Book of Discipline.

IV. The Book of Discipline was taken up at the place where it had been left off in June, namely, the end of Chap. iii., page 22, and carried on to the end of Sect. iii., p. 29.

It was agreed to suspend the standing order for this evening—to meet at 6, instead of 7—go on with the revision of the Book of Discipline till 8—and then take up the Reports on National Education, and Sabbath-schools, &c., as per Minute xxxiii. of the last annual meeting.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 15th November, Six o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

Book of Discipline.

V. The revision of the Book of Discipline was continued, from the beginning of Sect. iv., p. 29, to the end of Chap. iv., p. 33.

Report on Nat. Educ.

VI. Mr. Russell read the Report of the Committee on National Education, in a series of resolutions, and moved its adoption by Synod. This was seconded by the Rev. A. Savage, and passed unanimously, with instructions that it be published in the Minutes.

The following is the Report:—

REPORT ON NATIONAL EDUCATION.

"Considering the great importance of the subject of National education, in reference alike to the interests of nations, the prosperity of the Church of Christ, and the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth; and having regard to present discussions of this subject in these countries and in America, which seems destined to lead to mo-

Report on Nat. Educ.

mentous issues, the Reformed Presbyterian Synod now in session emits its testimony in the following resolutions :—

"1. It is the duty of States to whom the Word of God has come to honour it, to make a profession of religion founded on it—to acknowledge specially the Messiah as head over all things to His Church, and governor among the nations, and by wise legislation and exercise of authority to suppress vice and ungodliness, promote knowledge and social virtue, and by all Scriptural means aim at advancing genuine Christianity.

"2. We regard it as the duty of nations, as well as of parents and Churches, to adopt means for the education of the rising youth of the community. The history of all nations, both in ancient and modern times, that have been prosperous and powerful, shows that to have been an object of special concern to their legislators and rulers. The promotion of sound knowledge among the young is essential to the peace, good order, and industry of the nation, and to the due performance of all the duties they owe to God and man. Experience has shown that communities that are allowed to grow up in ignorance are prone to become turbulent, vicious, and degraded. Considering, therefore, the neglect and cupidity of many parents, and the divisions and sinful apathy of the Churches, there is strong reason to conclude that the instruction of the masses of the youth cannot safely be left to be provided for in either of these ways, but is a legitimate subject for National legislation, and may be provided for in the measure required by national taxation, and by the adoption of compulsory measures to secure the necessary attendance of the children at the public schools.

"3. It must be admitted that the character of the education under which the young are brought up has a vast influence in forming their minds and influencing their future conduct and destinies. The National System of Ireland admits that it is incumbent on the State to provide for the religious as well as the secular education of the youth of the nation; but, having regard to the conflicting sentiments of the community, the State essays the duty by a united secular and separate religious education. We testify against that provision of the National System that has respect to the religious instruction, because it gives no security that any religion shall be taught in any school. It becomes responsible for the teaching of the systems of the various religious denominations that divide Ireland. It undertakes to give equal facilities and encouragement to the teaching of all these systems, yet leaves it optional whether any of them shall be taught. We further testify against this system because it

Report on Nat. Edu.

commits the nation to all the error, heresy, and superstition taught in the schools recognised by the Board, the Board being bound to give facilities and encouragement to the teaching of these errors, &c. Here is the germ of concurrent endowment of truth and error. The giving of facilities, encouragement, and protection to such teaching commits the nation equally with giving a money grant.

"4. We testify and declare our conviction that in any system of public education which a Christian nation may adopt, the Bible should be taken as the basis of religious instruction. The youth receiving education should have free access to the Holy Scriptures. No compulsion, however, should be used in reference to such as have conscientious scruples. The Bible is no sectarian book, and is dishonoured when it is classed with such, or thrust aside as a concession to ignorance or prejudice.

"5. We also testify against the way in which parental right and authority are understood and applied in the National System. That right is dealt with as if it were Divine. It is assumed that every parent has a right to inculcate his own sentiments, true or false, on his children, and, therefore, it is the duty of the State to aid and assist the parent in this through the National schools. It is the duty and right of the parent to provide for the education of his children as it is to provide food or raiment, but he is limited in regard to what he has a right to teach by the light of nature and the revelation God has given in the Scriptures. He clearly has no right from God to believe or teach what is contrary to God's will revealed. He can have no right except to be let alone, no extern party having a right to interfere. If the parent has no right beyond this, he clearly cannot claim from the State encouragement and facilities for educating his children in error. The fallacy lies in the assumption that, whatever the parent may do in educating his children in the family, where he is only responsible to God, the State may or ought to do in the National schools, where it is responsible for what is taught. The State, in the performance of a most important and responsible duty, gives itself up to be guided by the will of the parents of all denominations, instead of ascertaining and being guided by the will of God, thus regarding the creature more than the Creator, who is God over all. The fallacy pointed out above gives complexion to the whole system. We testify against the doctrine of parental right and authority, as stated above, and in behalf of the supremacy of the Holy Scriptures in the education of youth.

"6. We, at the same time, protest against the State establishing what is called the denominational system of public

Report on Nat. Educ.

education, as being endowment given by the nation for the teaching of opposing systems of belief. A great part of the money so given would be applied to the propagation of gross error, to purposes of intolerance, and perpetuating idolatry and superstition, and the sectarian bitterness and strife which have hitherto so grievously interfered with the happiness and prosperity of this part of the United Kingdom.

"7. We renew the protests formerly emitted by this Synod at several times against the National System of Education in Ireland, as having been in its origin an evil concession to Popery, and as having, during the whole period of its past history, manifested the tendency to concede increasing Popish demands, even in plain violation of its avowed fundamental principles, as in giving grants out of the national funds for the education of convent schools, and more recently to monastic schools, where no proper inspection is allowed, and the money so given is simply a national endowment for the support and extension of institutions which the nation has pronounced to be illegal—in the appointment of a large number of Popish Commissioners, whereby the management of the whole National system is, in a great measure, in the hands of avowed enemies of Protestantism and Scriptural education—in the alterations made by the Commissioners in the new editions of the school books, by which gross Popish errors are introduced into the books out of which the children are taught at the national expense. These proceedings in connection with the National System of Education in this country fully justify the protest and warning which were early emitted by this Synod against it; and, moreover, as we conceive, show clearly the evil of Presbyterians and other Protestants in this country having such a connection with it as virtually gives a sanction to it, and renders them parties to some of the worst abuses that have been brought in under it.

"It is now perfectly manifest from the published declarations and proceedings of the dignitaries and leaders of the Popish party in these countries and in America that the avowed object is in no way to permit the State to interfere in the matter of public education, save to grant them large subsidies out of the national funds, and to yield to them the entire direction and control of education in the higher and lower seminaries. It is incumbent on all who love Protestant liberty and truth, and who would promote the welfare of the nation, to resist by every legitimate means such demands, and, at the same time, to stand aloof from giving active support to a system which, whatever may be its advantages, is opposed to true Scriptural education, and has to

Report on Nat. Educ.

a large extent been rendered subservient to Popish objects and interests. Finally, among the conflicts of opinions on the subject of National education, and in view of movements that are in progress, we consider ourselves as ministers and elders, representing a witnessing Covenanted Church, at such a crisis, especially called upon to inculcate on parents the godly upbringing of their children, to guard the educated youth of the Church against the evil influence of unscriptural systems of education, and by prayer and self-denied efforts to do all that is in our power for the promoting throughout the land of true Scriptural education."

Report on Sab. Schools, &c.

VII. Dr. Houston read the Report of the same Committee on Sabbath-schools, Colportage, and the Evangelization of the Neglected Masses, and moved its adoption. The Rev. J. Brown seconded the motion. This also passed unanimously, and it was ordered to be published in the Minutes.

The following is the Report:—

REPORT CONCERNING SABBATH SCHOOLS—COLPORTAGE—EVANGELIZATION OF THE NEGLECTED MASSES.

I. SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Sabbath Schools.

1. As it is a special and primary duty of the Church to provide for the instruction in Scriptural knowledge, and the "godly upbringing" of the young—and as the institution of Sabbath Schools has been proved by experience to be a means eminently conducive to those ends—it is therefore recommended—

2. That in the several Congregations and mission stations under the care of Synod, there be, as far as practicable, established one or more Sabbath Schools, the superintendence and visitation of which shall be under the Minister and Session, whose special duty shall be to organize these Schools, appoint the teachers, direct in relation to the mode of instruction, the books used, &c.; visit them regularly, and receive annual reports, which are to be engrossed in the annual report of the congregation, and likewise presented at suitable times in returns to the Presbytery.

3. In cases where, owing to the dispersed state of congregations, it may be found impracticable for a general Sabbath School to be established, with an adequate number of teachers, it is recommended that active and devoted members of the Church collect classes of the young for Scriptural instruction at their own places—either on Sabbath or week-day evenings—an account of these to be rendered to the Session, and the superintendence and visitation of these classes to be under the minister and elders, as in regular Sabbath Schools.

Report on Sabbath Schools, &c.

4. The attendance upon Sabbath Schools should in no case interfere with regular catechetical Scriptural instruction by parents and heads of families, who are in the membership of the Church. In many cases, however, the children of Church members may and ought to attend the Sabbath School, and this, instead of hindering domestic religious instruction, will rather serve greatly to further it. When Sabbath Schools and classes are established, the teachers should, by visiting the families to which the children belong, avail themselves of the facilities which their position affords them of imparting religious instruction to parents.

5. It has been proved in recent years that, by directing the attention of the teachers and children of Sabbath Schools to works of Christian benevolence, important aid may thus be obtained for carrying forward vigorously such works: they should therefore be carefully instructed in relation to the diffusion of the Bible and Religious Tracts, the work of Evangelical Missions, and the cause of Temperance—and their pecuniary contributions and personal efforts should be sought for those objects.

II. COLPORTAGE.

Colportage.

It having been found by experience, within the last few years, that a system of Colportage for the sale of the Scriptures, and for the diffusion of religious Periodicals, Tracts, and other religious publications, has been eminently useful in the spread of Divine truth, and in preparing the way for the preaching of the Gospel in this and other countries—it is therefore agreed to establish such an institution in connexion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland. For this purpose, it is resolved—

1. To take measures for raising, by Donations, Annual Subscriptions, and Congregational Collections, in each Presbytery of the Church, such a sum annually as will support at least one or two Colporteurs, to labour within the bounds of the Presbytery, or in such other localities as the Presbytery may assign to them.

2. The Colporteurs shall be members of the Church, of known Christian spirit and character. In carrying the Scriptures and religious books and periodicals to the houses of the people, they shall, as they find opportunity, read the Word and pray in the families they visit, and they shall give religious instruction to the sick and the young.

3. As many Book Agencies as possible shall be established in the shops and places of business of members of the Church, in different villages and towns throughout the Northern, and other parts of the Kingdom. Books and periodicals being

Report on Sabbath Schools, &c.

sold in these at the regular published prices, the expense of carriage, &c., will be met from the allowance which is made by Publishers and other Religious Societies.

4. Besides the circulation of the Scriptures and religious publications by the Colporteurs and Book Agents, they should put in circulation Tracts and Books which contain an exhibition of the distinctive principles of the Church's Testimony, and arrangements shall be forthwith made to prepare a series of such works, adapted to general circulation.

5. As soon as practicable, means shall be taken to establish in Belfast or Derry a general Depot for Colportage, which shall be under the management of an active member of the Church, who shall act as General Agent. It is believed that the Hibernian Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, and the Religious Tract Society of London, on proper application, will give grants of Books to this Colportage Society, either for gratuitous distribution or at reduced prices.

III. EVANGELIZATION OF THE NEGLECTED MASSES.

Evangelization of the Masses.

The duty of making active, sustained, and prayerful efforts for bringing the Gospel to the neglected masses in our large towns and in various parts of the country, is beginning to be recognized by all sections of the Evangelical Protestant Church, and may be regarded as a most important part of the Church's mission in the present day. As this subject has already, through the action of one of the Presbyteries, and by means of the *Covenanter*, been brought, in some sort, before the Church, it appears only necessary to offer the following suggestions:—

1. That the Minister and Session of each congregation should make careful inspection of the state of the neglected masses within their bounds—shall themselves engage in direct efforts for their benefit, and shall labour to induce as many of the devoted members of the Church—male and female—as possible, to employ themselves in like efforts—and shall superintend and take account regularly of the work performed.

2. Presbyteries shall receive at stated times reports from the different Sessions of the labour performed by themselves, and by those under their care, for the evangelization of the neglected masses, and it is recommended that, at least once in the year, a special meeting of Presbytery be held for this purpose, at which, besides hearing these reports, the ministers, elders, and such members of the Church as may

assemble with them, shall engage in special prayer for Divine direction and the outpouring of the Spirit in connexion with evangelistic efforts—and measures shall be devised for spreading the Gospel throughout the dark parts of the Home Mission field.

3. Presbyteries are in future to report their diligence in this great work to the Synod at its annual meetings, and it may suitably be assigned a distinct and prominent place in the Home Mission Report of the Synod.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Wednesday, 16th November, 10 o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed business, after devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. Thomas Hart.

VIII. A Scale of Preachers' Appointments was submitted, and adopted, as follows:— Preachers' Appointments.

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Mr. Hurst..	S.	E.	N.	S.	S.	W.	E.
Mr. M'Knight	E.	S.	N.W.	W.	E.	E.N.	N.
Mr. Cleeland	W.E.	N.	W.	S.E.	2, N. 3, E.	S.	S.
Mr. M'Farlane	W.	2, W. 3, E.	E.	N.	W.	N.	N.W.
Mr. Moody..	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.	E.	W.

IX. Summaries of Causes of Thanksgiving and of Humiliation were read by Mr. Russell, and adopted by Synod. It was ordered that 100 copies of the Causes of Thanksgiving should be printed forthwith and sent to ministers, and that the Causes of Fasting should be published in the January Number of the Magazine. Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation.

X. The revision of the Book of Discipline was continued to the end of p. 44. Book of Discipline.

It was agreed to suspend the standing order, and meet for Synodical business at 6.30 *p.m.*—to continue till 7.30, when Dr. Dick is to deliver the public Lecture for the opening of the Hall.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 16th November, 6.30, p.m.

Synod met and resumed business with prayer.

Book of Discipline.

XI. The revision of the Book of Discipline was continued to the end of p. 48.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Thursday, 17th November, 10 o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed business, after devotional exercises conducted by the Rev. R. Allen.

Notice of Motion.

XII. Dr. Dick gave notice that, at the next annual meeting of Synod, he would move, with regard to the Formula of Questions to be put to candidates for Licence and Ordination, as that appears in the Draft Book of Discipline, the insertion of the question not in it but in the old copies of the Formula, relating to the Acts of Assembly from 1638 to 1649.

Grant to Dublin.

XIII. An addition of £5 was allowed to the grant of £20, made by Synod at the last annual meeting, to the congregation of Dublin, for the present year (Min. xx.), out of the Home Mission Fund. Mr. Russell was appointed to visit Dublin, and preach there for two or three Sabbaths, at such time as may suit his convenience, so that he may be able to report to Synod at its next annual meeting, with reference to the decision already come to, of making Dublin the head-quarters of the Irish Mission.

Memorial from Liverpool.

XIV. A memorial from Liverpool, dated 10th Nov., 1870, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, was brought up, in which the subscribers expressed thanks to Synod on account of what had been already done for them, and to the Head of the Church for the success which, through His blessing, had attended the efforts put forth—exhibiting a subscription list of £80 3s 0d—and asking of Synod, in the event of a minister being ordained over them, a grant of £50 a year, diminishing annually by £10—in the mean time and till a minister be settled there, asking an annual grant of £20, to aid them in paying for supplies of preaching. Messrs. Quin Beck and J. B. Long were named in the memorial as commissioners to represent the memorialists, and support the petition. These gentlemen were both present, and were heard in support of the memorial.

Synod complied with the latter part of the prayer of the memorial, granting at the rate of £20 a year to assist in paying for supplies of preaching. The consideration of

the former part of the memorial was remitted to the Commission of Synod, at its meeting in March.

XV. The revision of the Book of Discipline was carried through to the end—the question respecting the imposition of hands in the ordination of Ruling Elders being reserved till the meeting of Synod in June next—the whole to be regarded as held under further consideration till that time—a general approbation being given to it as now revised. Book of Discipline—Revision Concluded.

At half-past 3 o'clock, p.m., the Synod was adjourned with prayer, by the Moderator, till Monday, 19th June, 1871. Final Adjournment.

ATTESTED BY

ROBERT NEVIN,

Synod Clerk.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

SESSION I.

LONDONDERRY, MONDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1871—SEVEN O'CLOCK. P.M.

Constitution. The SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after a discourse from Col. i. 18, last clause—"That in all things he might have the pre-eminence"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The following is the Roll:—

Roll. THE REV. JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Hart*	William Kennedy....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
Jas. D. Houston, B.A.	James Carlile*.....	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	John Nevin*	Dervock and B.money
James A. Smyth+	Neal Quin*.....	Drimbolg.
Joseph Hamilton.....	.....	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D.....	Samuel Clugston* ..	Kellswater.
William Toland+	Robert Kerr.....	Kilraughts.
.....	....	Ringrash.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas H. Dick*...	Thomas Smyth*....	Bailliesmills.
William Russell	.....	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor..	Hugh Cheyne*	Belfast.
.....	Isaac Moorhead*....	Killinchy.
Thos. Houston, D.D..	William J. Kane....	Knockbracken.
.....	.....	Larne.
.....	.....	Manchester.
Robert Allen	John Simms*	Newtownards.

Roll

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage	Richard Hale.....	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas	.....	Ballybay.
Hutchinson M'Fadden*	....	Ballylane.
.....	....	Dromore.
.....	....	Dublin.
George Lillie*	....	Fairview.
Wm. S. Ferguson*	....	Grange.
.....	....	Lisdonnan.
.....	Joseph Murray*	Loughbrickland.
.....	Robert M'Gladdry...	Newry.
Thomas Hart*.....	William Moore*.....	Rathfriland.
Samuel Simms†	.....	.....

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland	Robert M'Kinley, J. M'Dougall, *Alternate* *	Bready and Mulvin.
John W. Mackeown ..	Alexander Storey	Convoy & Donegal.
James P. Sweeny	William Steele, Jas. Glenn, *Alternate.*	Faughan.
Robert Nevin.....	James Torrens D. Smyth, *Alternate.*	Londonderry.
Thos. Cleland, B.A...	John Robinson*	Newtownlimavady.
.....	William Tait.....	Stranorlar.

I. It was intimated, on behalf of the Western Presbytery, that the Rev. Thomas Cleland, B.A., had been ordained to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Newtownlimavady, rendered vacant by the removal of the Rev. James Kennedy to New York. His name was ordered to be inserted in the Roll.

II. It was also intimated, on behalf of the Western Presbytery, that a congregation in Stranorlar had been received into the fellowship of the Church from another denomination. Mr. William Tait, Ruling Elder, presented a commission from that congregation to represent them in Synod. His name and that of the congregation were ordered to be added to the Roll.

III. It was intimated, on the part of the Eastern Presbytery, that Dr. Newell had been loosed from the charge of the Manchester congregation, and had emigrated to the United States of America. His name was, in consequence, removed from the Roll.

Rev. J. D. Houston chosen Moderator.

IV. The Rev. J. D. Houston was, on motion of Rev. C. K. Toland, seconded by Rev. J. Brown, appointed Moderator, and took the chair.

* Not present when the Court was constituted.
† Not present at any of the Sessions.

V. The time for the sessions of Synod was fixed to be, from ten in the morning till three in the afternoon; and from seven till ten in the evening. Hours of Meeting.

VI. The Moderator and Clerk, with Messrs. Russell and Douglas, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures. They were instructed to prepare also an order of business. To meet at 8, *a.m.*, to-morrow.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 20th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer.

The Rev. R. Allen conducted devotional exercises.

The following members, not present when the court was constituted, now appeared and took seats:—Rev. H. M'Fadden; Rev. G. Lillie; Mr. James Carlile, Elder from Coleraine; Mr. John Nevin, Elder from Dervock and Ballymoney; Mr. Hugh Cheyne, Elder from Belfast; Mr. Robert M'Kinlay, Elder from Bready; Mr. John Robinson, Elder from Newtownlimavady.

VII. The Committee of Bills and Overtures submitted an order of business, which was approved. They also reported the reception of a memorial to Synod from Dublin, which they had licensed.

VIII. Dr. Dick moved, seconded by Dr. Houston, that Synod request Mr. Chancellor to publish the discourse delivered yesterday evening. Mr. Chancellor promised compliance.

IX. Mr. John M'Donald, Ruling Elder, from Glasgow, being present, was invited to sit and deliberate. Mr. M'Donald present.

X. The Editor of the Magazine reported respecting it. The Magazine. The circulation continued to be much the same. In some congregations, he thought, a little effort on the part of friends might increase the circulation considerably; and in several, earlier remittances were a necessity. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Russell, and seconded by Mr. Chancellor, passed, *nem. diss.*—

"Resolved—That this Synod have heard with much satisfaction the report of the Editor. They also express their very high appreciation of the Editor's services, and recommend to Ministers and Elders to exert themselves to obtain an increase to the number of subscribers, and to have the subscriptions forwarded in advance. This would greatly encourage and sustain the Editor in his arduous labours."

XI. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast on the third Monday in June, 1872, at seven o'clock, *p.m.* Next Meeting of Synod.

XII. A summary of Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation was submitted by the Rev. J. Brown, and adopted as follows:—

Causes of Thanksgiving.

CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING.

"1. We desire ever to make special acknowledgment to God for His infinite love in the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ for human redemption, and the blessings derived to the Church and the advantages to the world through the mediatorial dispensation.

"2. We give thanks for the distinguishing goodness of God to us in making known to us His gracious mind and will by the Scriptures, blessing us with the organization of the Church, and all the means of grace, whilst a large portion of the human family is left in heathen darkness.

"3. We give thanks for an open door for the entrance of the Gospel into the nations, and the zeal and efforts of the different branches of the Church of Christ to make known the Saviour's name.

"4. We give thanks that, as the effect of the judgments of God upon the earth, and particularly upon those nations that have been specially instrumental in supporting the Romish Antichrist, the power of that system of iniquity has been greatly weakened, and the minds of men have been influenced to receive the pure Gospel of the grace of God. We would praise the Lord for what He has done, and for what He is doing in Spain, in Rome, and in other places formerly in midnight darkness.

"5. We give thanks for the steady maintenance of the principles of our father's testimony by our Church, whilst loose and defective views of Christian faith and duty are so prevalent, and scepticism and infidelity are making such bold attacks on Christianity.

"6. We give thanks for some evidences of the gracious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in connexion with His own ordinances, giving them life and power for the conversion of souls, and the sanctification of believers.

"7. We give thanks for an abundant supply of temporal blessings, notwithstanding the wickedness of men. 'Our threshing reaches our vintage, our vintage our sowing time; we eat our bread to the full, and dwell in our land safely.'

8. "We also give thanks for the increased liberality manifested by the members of the Church, showing that they are in some measure appreciating the divine goodness."

Causes of Humiliation.

CAUSES OF HUMILIATION.

"1. We desire to be ever mindful of our breach of cove-

nant in the first of men entailing upon us 'the guilt of that first sin, the want of original righteousness; and the corruption of our whole nature,' which has been the fruitful source of innumerable actual transgressions. Causes of Humiliation.

"2. We mourn and lament that such a large portion of the human family is yet without the knowledge of God and his Christ; that our nominally Christian world is so wicked and ungodly, and that the efforts of the Church to establish the Redeemer's kingdom are so feeble in comparison with the magnitude of the work and the claims of Christ.

"3. We lament the active hostility of the nations and the indifference of the churches to the crown rights of the enthroned Mediator; the despite done to the law of God, the supreme rule in all causes, civil and ecclesiastical; and the infidelity that is to be found amongst all ranks and classes of men poisoning much of the current literature, and thereby destroying the souls of men.

4. "The prevalence of a spirit of worldly-mindedness that makes the claims of religion secondary to the claims of the world, that prevents the growth of the Church, and that weakens the efforts of God's people for the conversion of the nations.

"5. The inconsistencies of the highest professors in regard to the sanctity of their lives; their forgetfulness of solemn covenant engagements to all Christian duty; and their conformity to the spirit and habits of the world.

"6. We lament the lifeless and fruitless observance of the outward and ordinary means of grace; the weak and faint exercise of Christian grace; the slow progress of Christ's kingdom both in the individual soul and in the world, together with the prevalence of the kingdom of him who is 'the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience.' We specially instance the countenance that is given by members of the Church to the drinking customs of the time in which we live.

"7. We lament our grievous shortcomings in the discharge of duties to which we are pledged; in some places the fellowship prayer-meeting has fallen into disuse, or is attended but thinly; and as ministers, elders, and people, we have been neglectful of solemn duty. For these things our souls would weep in secret places; our eyes would weep sore, and run down with tears because the Lord's flock is carried away captive."

The last Thursday in November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Days appointed.

Thursday in Jannary, 1872, as the day of annual Humiliation.

Mr. Mackeown and Mr. Cleland were appointed to prepare a summary for next year.

Book of Discipline.

XIII. The Book of Government and Discipline was brought under consideration. Some amendments which had occurred, since the adjourned meeting of Synod, to members of the Committee who had it in charge, were suggested and disposed of, until the hour for adjournment arrived.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 20th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

The following members appeared and took seats—Rev. John Hart; Rev. W. S. Ferguson; Rev. Thomas Hart; Rev. Thomas Dick; Mr. Neal Quin, Elder from Drimbolg; Mr. Samuel Clugston, Elder from Kellswater; Mr. Joseph Murray, Elder from Loughbrickland; Mr. William Moore, Elder from Rathfriland; Mr. Thomas Smyth, Elder from Bailliesmills; Mr. John Simms, Elder from Newtownards.

XIV. Messrs. Chancellor and Douglas were appointed a Committee for inspecting records of Presbyteries—to Report at a future sederunt.

Acts of Assembly, 1638–49.

XV. The consideration of the Book of Government and Discipline was resumed. Professor Dick moved, in accordance with the notice recorded in Minute XII. of the adjourned meeting, that the question in the Formula put to candidates for licence and ordination, respecting the Acts of Assembly from 1638–49 in favour of the Reformation, be restored. The motion was seconded by Dr. Houston. Mr. Chancellor moved, as an amendment, that the question remain omitted. This was seconded by Mr. Savage. After some discussion, the motion and amendment were put to the vote, and the amendment was carried.

Sc. Deputation.

XVI. A commission was presented and read, from which it appeared that the Rev. James Kerr, and Mr. John M'Donald, Ruling Elder, had been appointed a deputation from the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland to this Synod. Mr. Kerr being now present, took his seat in court, as a consultative member.

Mr. Kerr present.

Report of J. and For. Mission.

XVII. Dr. Houston read the Report of the Jewish and Foreign Mission. Mr. Douglas moved that it be adopted

and published. This was seconded by Mr. Russell, and and passed, *nem. diss.* The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 19, 1871. Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

The singularly solemn and surprising events of the last year present to the Church of Christ the most urgent appeals and the strongest motives and encouragements to engage in labours for the world's conversion. By fearful works in righteousness, the Lord has answered His people's prayers. He has arisen in His might and majesty to shake terribly the earth. By destructive judgments inflicted upon the Antichristian system, and by great and unexpected changes that have taken place in Heathen and Mohammedan countries, mighty impediments have been removed out of the way of the spread of the Bible, and wide doors and effectual have been thrown open for the proclamation of the Gospel of peace to many people. Signs have been multiplied on all sides, clear and distinct, that, in the shaking of the heavens and the earth, 'the things that can be shaken' are about to be removed, and that 'the Desire of all nations' is coming to bring in 'the kingdom that cannot be shaken,' but that shall remain for ever. In the downfal of the *Temporal power* of the Papacy—in the severance of Italy, and Austria, and Spain from the interests of the Man of Sin—and, above all, in the tremendous judgments that have been poured out upon Popish and Infidel France, God has brought great Babylon into remembrance before Him, and has signally avenged the blood, shed in torrents, of His slaughtered saints. Chiefly do we regard these wonderful movements in their immediate results—in opening up the way for the diffusion of Scriptural truth throughout nations, from which, until lately, it was entirely excluded, and in the weighty obligations which they impose upon the Protestant churches to enter into fields that are white to the harvest; and, by vigorous and prayerful efforts, to make known the Gospel of Christ as the only effectual remedy for the plagues of the nations, and for the manifold evils of humanity. What Christian heart is not moved with joy, and excited to devout thanksgiving and praise, because *Spain* is now everywhere open to the Gospel, and that the good work begun there, between two and three years ago, goes forward with increasing tokens of spiritual progress and success? In *Rome*, where for ages the iron rule of the Papacy forcibly crushed down the spirit of liberty, and excluded the light of the Divine Word, the Gospel is now publicly preached in some four or five places of Protestant worship, and hundreds of the population go to hear

Events encouraging.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

the joyful sound. Depositories for the sale of the Scriptures have been opened in the most public parts of the city, and Bibles and religious books and tracts are in daily circulation. Not the least interesting circumstance is that at least one of the places of evangelical worship is in the vicinity of the *Ghetto*—the Jewish quarter—and that, it is said, numbers of Jews wait upon the Word preached there, and buy copies of the New Testament and of Christian books.

The recent War.

It is matter of special thanksgiving that the destructive war between *France* and *Prussia* has served to open, in an astonishing measure, a wide door for the spread of the Bible. It is estimated that not fewer than *One Million* and *a quarter* of copies of the Word of God and of portions of Scripture have been circulated in the seat of the war; and that everywhere—on battle-fields, in ambulances, camps, hospitals, and beleaguered cities—colporteurs and Protestant ministers have pursued their labour of love in safety. The precious truths of the Word have been heard and welcomed by persons who were before Popish, Infidel, and Heathen, and have, in cases not a few, proved an effectual support in labour and trial, and imparted comfort and hope in death. It is deserving of grateful remark that, while the Popish priesthood in France, during the late dire calamities, were generally mad upon their idols, and numbers of them were openly spurned away, and some even put to death by those who had been left by their teaching in ignorance and superstition, or turned to Infidelity and Atheism, Protestant ministers and Bible agents were everywhere safe when going forth on their errands of mercy, and attentively listened to when telling the story of the Saviour's dying love to perishing men, and had many precious opportunities for making known the way of salvation to perishing sinners. God's Word cannot return to Him void. There is every reason to believe that, whatever judgments may yet be poured out upon Antichristian nations, a highway has been opened for the spread of Scriptural truth, which neither Popish, nor Infidel, nor despotic power will be able hereafter to close up. Let the Protestant churches improve the present most favourable opportunity by offering fervent prayers, sending forth many faithful labourers, and giving needed support to devoted Continental Christians; and we may hope that, ere long, a reformation, more powerful and glorious than the first, shall spread throughout European nations, and Babylon, foredoomed of God, shall be fully and finally subverted.

Bible and Mis. Soc.

Most cheering have been the reports of the progress and success of the great Bible and missionary societies,

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

that are engaged in the work of evangelizing the world, during the past season. The *British* and *Foreign Bible Society* has put into circulation nearly *Three Millions and a quarter* of copies of the Scriptures, in a great variety of languages—more than a million of copies above what was circulated in any single year of its past existence. Christian missions in all parts of the Heathen world —in Mohammedan countries, and to the Jewish people— have been successful above any former period; while in some parts of the Pagan earth, as in India, Madagascar, the South Sea Islands, and Southern Africa, the change effected in the character and condition of the people is such as to warrant the expectation that the day is not remote when, in these vast countries, the idols will be utterly abolished, and the millions of their population, if not savingly converted, will at least be ranged under a Christian profession.

Liberality.

It is, besides, gratifying to mention that, though British Christians contributed largely for the relief of the wounded and distressed in the seats of the war, yet the funds which they supplied for the diffusion of the Scriptures, and for the prosecution of evangelical missions, during the past year, were larger than at any former period. All sections of the church have been brought to feel that it is not less their privilege and honour than their duty to labour for the world's conversion. They are becoming convinced, too, that they have resources for this great object far beyond any that have yet been furnished. Christians will, ere long, in every place, be made to know that "*it is more blessed to give than to receive*," and that their own prosperity, both spiritual and temporal, will greatly increase, according as they live, and labour, and spend, and be spent for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth.

Mr. Martin.

Referring to the proposed Foreign and Jewish Mission, which, in conjunction with our brethren of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in Scotland, we have undertaken to set in operation, we have pleasure in reporting that the Mission Committee have taken various steps, with the concurrence and approval of the Commission, which hold out the prospect that, in a day not distant, we shall be in circumstances to report that an agent sent out by the Church will be actively employed in his appointed field of labour. Our esteemed Licentiate, *Mr James Martin*, who, previous to last annual meeting of Synod, had devoted himself to a Foreign Mission, and whose offer was accepted by the Synod, has been prosecuting medical studies since, under the direction of the Mission Committee. He is now so far advanced in the course

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

that he expects to be able to obtain a medical diploma early in October next; and he has expressed his willingness to go forth to a distant field of labour so soon after as the necessary arrangements can be made for this purpose. The Synod, it is hoped, will perceive the necessity of taking steps at its present meeting for the ordination of Mr. Martin—fixing his salary and outfit—and doing whatever else is required toward his entering upon his assigned field of labour.

Field.

With the view of obtaining the best available information respecting the most suitable field for a Foreign Mission to be conducted by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in these countries, the Secretary, early in October last, addressed a note of inquiry to the venerable Dr. Duff, of Edinburgh, who had, some time before, visited Syria as one of a deputation sent by the Free Church of Scotland to inspect mission schools in the district of Lebanon. In reply, Dr. Duff expressed his deep interest in the proposal by our church to commence a mission to the heathen, and strongly recommended Syria as, in all the circumstances, the most suitable place for us to engage in evangelistic labours among the Heathen. "*The practical outgoing*," he observed, "*of the missionary spirit is the surest sign of a living Church, and the best security for the continuance and growth of its life.*" Respecting Syria, while bearing most favourable testimony to the labours of our American brethren, he says, "The field is wide—it is open, and unoccupied by any other mission. Having brethren of the same body there already, I am inclined to think that your missionary could not do better than to proceed thither and join them. A place, whether Tarsus or elsewhere, would, after conference, be mutually agreed upon, in which he would co-operate with them, and, while in one respect acting independently, be aided by their counsels, as well as assisted in times of sickness, or under the pressure of any other Providential emergency. On the whole, in your peculiar circumstances, this is the destination which I would be disposed to recommend." This letter was forwarded to the Secretary of the Mission Committee of the Scottish Reformed Synod, who afterwards stated, in a communication received from him, that the Committee were quite willing to co-operate with us in a mission to Syria.

Death of Dr. Dodds.

With feelings of deep solemnity and painful regret, towards the end of February last, we received the intelligence that the *Rev. Dr. Dodds*, the senior missionary in Syria, had, on the 13th of December last, been suddenly and unexpectedly removed by death, from his field of important labour, through an attack of typhus fever. To his fellow-labourers in the same field, by whom he was greatly and deservedly

loved—to his own family, to the Church in America, and to many in these countries, who know the excellence of his character, and who took a lively interest in the work in which he was engaged, this was felt to be no ordinary affliction. For calm judgment, profound acquaintance with oriental languages, devotedness to Christ and His cause, deep Christian humility, and a loving, confiding disposition, our departed brother had few that equalled or excelled him among modern missionaries. To his wisdom, self-sacrificing zeal, and resolute perseverance under many trials and discouragements, as well as the influence of his Christian character, the Syrian Mission was greatly indebted, under God, for the position that it has attained, and the gratifying measure of success that has recently attended the labours of the missionaries. Just when a number of the difficulties that beset the post of labour at Aleppo had begun to give way, and when the number of native converts, and Scriptural schools, numerously attended, were largely increased in the district of Latakiyeh, this devoted servant of Christ was called away from his loved work on earth to receive the crown of righteousness. However trying this dispensation is to the church here, and in America, and elsewhere, we know assuredly that it has been ordered in sovereign wisdom and love. While it addresses a loud call to the church to furnish labourers and the means for carrying forward Christ's work in the earth, it admonishes His servants to do their work with all their might, in the view of the night approaching, wherein no man can work, and of the solemn and sure account which they will be required to render to the Master at His coming. Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

Having heard that the Mission Committee of the American Synod, on their receiving intelligence of the death of Dr. Dodds, had proposed to withdraw from the field which he had occupied at Aleppo, the Secretary wrote to the Rev. S. O. Wylie, the Convener, on the subject, making, at the same time, inquiries concerning the allowance which is made by them to the missionaries in Syria for salary, outfit, &c. In reply, Mr. W. stated that the prospects of success for the mission at Aleppo were so discouraging that Dr. Dodds himself would have thought of retiring from that post, had it not been for the station at *Idlib*, some forty miles distant, which was more promising, and for the schools which he had established. The good work at Latakiyeh, moreover, is making at present such progress that it will require all the aid, in respect of additional agency and pecuniary means, that the church can supply to carry it properly forward. The American Church allows to each married missionary £200 per annum, and Mr. W. says that less than this would not be. Syria.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

sufficient. The salary of an unmarried missionary is £160. The salary of Miss Crawford, from America, who has charge of the Female School, is £80. The incidental expense of the Aleppo branch, including wages to teachers, rents, &c., was about £150 per annum. £80 are allowed for outfit. The travelling expenses of the missionaries in the field, which they incur on account of the mission, are likewise paid.

Having thus presented all the information that is deemed important in relation to the state and prospects of the mission to Syria, and to the preparation of the agent, we take leave, in all humility and earnestness, to suggest that the time appears to be come for facilitating the arrangements for sending out Mr. Martin during the present season. This would be the means of fulfilling the desires and expectations that have been so long cherished, and at times so strongly expressed, that the Covenanted Church in this land should have its own living representatives actually engaged in a Foreign Missionary field. Had our agent been in Syria when Dr. Dodds was called away, it might have served an important purpose for him to take the place of the faithful labourer who had fallen, and thus to have carried forward the work in which he so much delighted. As we could not anticipate the imperative need that has arisen to strengthen the mission, and as we cannot redeem the past, we should now seek to show to those within the church, who are prayerfully concerned about the world's conversion, and to other churches, that we are in earnest on the subject, and that we are fully resolved to do all that is in our power for effecting it. We have been favoured with an agent of eminent literary attainments, and otherwise, as we think, well qualified to be the church's first missionary to the Heathen. Our brethren in Syria have, once and again, expressed their earnest desire that our agent should speedily co-operate with them in their arduous work, that they might thus be enabled to extend the mission. From many parts of Heathendom, the Macedonian cry—continually waxing louder and louder—"*Come over and help us*"—is addressed to the Church. The full and utter prostration of the French power has tended wonderfully to frustrate the schemes of Jesuits in the Eastern Churches and in Eastern lands, and has served to open the way for the dissemination of pure Protestant truth throughout countries which were once favoured with the light of Divine revelation, but which have long been immersed in spiritual darkness and superstition. Believing in the universal Mediatorial Headship of the Redeemer, we have the highest encouragement to enter upon the great work of making known His salvation, and of claiming the nations of the earth as His Covenanted

Syria.

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

inheritance. He has all authority in heaven and earth. His command—resting in the plenitude of its obligation upon all the ministers and members of the church—is, "*Go and teach all nations*," and His faithful promise assures us of His presence and blessing, according as we offer practical obedience to the solemn mandate—"*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.*" The power of the enthroned Redeemer is surely adequate to remove all difficulties. He who has the stores of all worlds in His hand can supply means amply sufficient to carry forward the work; and He who has 'the residue of the Spirit' with Him can impart grace and wisdom to His servants in calling and appointing labourers, and to the agents sent forth, removing difficulties, rendering their way prosperous, and giving them precious and plentiful fruits of their labour. In remembrance of our solemn vows and high privileges, it behoves us to have strong faith in the power, promise, and fulness of Zion's King, and, in deep concern for the advancement of His glory and love for perishing sinners, to betake ourselves, with earnest and devoted resolution, to this important undertaking. We should cherish the assurance that the Lord will succour what we do for the honour of His great name, and that our seeking the salvation of the Heathen and of the Jewish people will be to the church the means of revival and extensive spiritual blessing.

Legacy.

In conclusion, we report with pleasure that a legacy, which was left some years ago by the late *John Orr*, Elder of the Presbyterian Church in Saintfield, to the Jewish Mission of this church, was paid by the executors to the Treasurer of Knockbracken Congregation, and by him handed over to the Secretary. This, with the interest accruing, amounted to upwards of *Twenty-four Pounds*. It is proper to mention that the testator expressed the wish that the agent or agents sent forth by this church, who would enjoy the benefit of his legacy, should, if possible, labour for the conversion of Jews residing in Palestine and the neighbouring countries; and that his widow considered that the money should be handed over, when she learned the church's intention to send its agents to Syria.

Support.

If we shall be privileged to engage soon in the active prosecution of the Foreign Mission, all proper means will be required to be taken to draw forth the church's systematic and enlarged liberality for the due support of the undertaking. Not only by annual congregational collections, but also by soliciting donations and legacies, and organizing associations for securing aid for this mission, we should seek to give the pledge of the church's sincerity, and of her full

Report of For. and Jew. Mission.

determination that the agents sent out shall be generously supported, and the Mission extended, as Divine Providence may open the way of His servants. Above all, the ministry and eldership should themselves evince hearty resolution and firm faith in entering upon such a work, and should regard it as their special duty to excite the members of the church to fervent and persevering prayer for the Divine direction and blessing upon this undertaking. With united hearts we should constantly plead—"*God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.*"

Synod expressed by a show of hands its adherence to the call addressed to Mr. James Martin, M.A., to become a foreign missionary.

Synod in like manner expressed its mind that Syria should be selected as the field of operations, and that the operations should be conducted in conjunction with the Synod in the United States of America with whom we hold fraternal relations, and with the Scottish Synod.

Mr. Martin, being present, was asked whether he adhered to his acceptance of the call of Synod to be their missionary in Syria, engaging to enter upon the work as soon as his preparations can be completed under the direction of Synod. Mr. Martin signified his consent.

Synod then pledged itself, also by a show of hands, to take all due measures to provide the funds requisite for the adequate support of their missionary.

Committee on For. Miss.

The following were appointed a Committee of Synod to take charge of this whole matter, empowered to proceed to the ordination of Mr. Martin when they deem his preparations sufficiently advanced:—The Moderator, Dr. Houston, Dr. Dick, Revs. W. Russell, J. A. Chancellor, J. Brown, G. Douglas, R. Nevin—Dr. Houston, *Convener*.

Dr. Dick was requested to engage specially in prayer, to express thanksgiving to God for the unanimity exhibited in this most important matter and the amount of progress already made, and thus to adjourn the sederunt.

Adjourned accordingly.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 21st June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

The Rev. Thomas Dick conducted devotional exercises.

Report of Home Mission.

XVIII. Mr. Chancellor read the Report of the Home Mission. It was moved by the Rev. Thomas Dick, se-

conded by Mr. Clugston, and passed unanimously, that it be adopted and published with the Minutes. The following is the Report:—

Report of Home Mission.

Home Mission Report for the Year ending June 19th, 1871.

During the past year all the grants ordered by Synod have been paid; and as nothing has occurred of an exceptional character, it only remains for us to call attention to the number of applications for new and additional grants, and to the present state of the funds. These will require the most earnest consideration of Synod.

Grants of last year.

At last meeting of Synod a special grant was made to Loughbrickland to assist in sending supplies on account of the infirmity of the pastor. This, of course, is not to be continued. Increased grants were made to Dublin and to Killinchy—the latter, however, has not been in circumstances to claim its fulfilment. A grant of £10 was given to Liverpool, with power to the Commission to increase the amount. At the Special meeting of Synod in November, the grant to Liverpool was increased to £25. These sums, added to the standing liabilities of the Home Mission Fund, have raised the amount expended within the year considerably above the annual income. The balance, which has been accumulating for a few years, has been drawn upon to the extent of £40 to meet the increased annual expenditure. The present rate of expenditure would speedily exhaust the balance on hands, and land us in an increasing deficit.

New Applications.

But there are several applications for new and exceptional grants, some of them of an urgent character, to be laid before the present meeting of Synod. Liverpool has upon Synod's table a memorial for a grant of £50 in the year, still undisposed of. Interesting and pressing applications are to be made on behalf of Stranorlar and Larne, each of which would require a similar amount to enable them to realize the object which they have in view. This would add to our present expenditure an amount equal to our entire annual income. In other words, it would require twice our present income to enable us to meet these applications. Is there any probability that we shall be able to increase the contributions of the Church to this amount? We fear there is not.

Need for Economy.

In these circumstances, we have the unpleasant alternative before us of either refusing all new applications, from whatever quarter they may come and how strongly soever they may be recommended, or of providing funds for new applications by withdrawing them from those places which have heretofore enjoyed them. On the delicate and difficult

Report of Home Miss.

ground referred to in the latter part of this alternative, we would not feel ourselves warranted to enter, even in the way of suggestion, without the sanction of Synod. If the exigencies of the case render this course inevitable, it would require a more calm, searching, and impartial investigation into the state of our present liabilities than would probably be possible on the floor of Synod.

Memorial from Dublin.

XIX. A Memorial from Dublin, dated 15th June, 1871, licensed by the Committee of Bills, was read, in which it was stated that the congregation there would contribute £40 a-year for the support of a minister, should this be sufficiently supplemented from the funds at the disposal of Synod, so as to enable them to give a call—and praying Synod to grant such supplement.

Memorial from Liverpool.

XX. A Memorial from Liverpool, dated 15th June, 1871, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, was also read, in which it was stated that the members there were now contributing £90 a-year of subscriptions, £40 of collections, total £130, and repeating their request of a grant of £50 a-year from the Home Mission Fund, to enable them to get a minister.

Memorial from Larne.

XXI. A Memorial from Larne, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, was read, praying Synod to make them a grant to enable them to give a call to a minister. This was accompanied by a subscription list amounting to £40.

Memorial from Stranorlar.

XXII. A Memorial from a congregation in Stranorlar, recently received into the fellowship of the Church from another denomination by the Western Presbytery, which had been presented to the Commission at its meeting in March, praying for a grant of £50 a year, to put them into a position to obtain a pastor—was brought up. Some extracts from the Report of the Western Presbytery, bearing upon this case, and necessary to a right understanding of it, were read by the Clerk. A subscription list was submitted, amounting to £46.

At 2 o'clock it was agreed to suspend the standing order and adjourn—remitting to Commission, meeting immediately thereafter, to consider these several Memorials, and be prepared at 7 o'clock to give in some recommendation respecting them to Synod.

Adjourned accordingly with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 21st June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

Grants, Home Mission.

XXIII. It was reported, on behalf of the Commission, that they recommend a grant to be made to Stranorlar, of

£50 for the first year, £40 for the second, diminishing afterwards by £5 a year—to Liverpool, of £40, diminishing by £10 a year—to Larne, of £40, diminishing by £5 a year. These grants to take effect in each instance only in the event of a minister being settled, and from the date of his ordination. The case of Dublin was reserved, to be taken up in connection with the Report of the Irish Mission.

The recommendation of the Commission in respect to these several grants was unanimously adopted by Synod.

XXIV. Mr. Russell read the Report of the Irish Mission. Its adoption was moved by Mr. John Hart, seconded by Mr. Savage, and passed, *nem. diss.* The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE IRISH MISSION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1871. Report of Irish Mission.

"The working of the Irish Mission has not yet been resumed. One reason is that an eligible agent has not yet offered himself. Another thing exercising an influence in this matter is the resolve of Synod to make Dublin the headquarters of the mission, and the strong predilection of the Church to have a Northern for its agent. A trained and well qualified Irish-speaking reader could have been obtained from the West, but we did not feel at liberty to employ him, and qualified agents for this work are not readily found in the North. Such, it is hoped, however, may be shortly engaged. Moreover, we have had little encouragement to enter into the work in the city with a Scripture-reader only.

"By appointment of the Synod of November last, we visited Dublin, and preached two Sabbaths to the few very interesting people there. About thirty persons were present at each of the services on the Sabbath. A congregational tea meeting was held, intended, we presume, to afford an opportunity of free intercourse, that we might obtain full and correct information respecting their state, and learn their wants, wishes, and prospects. Altogether, the season was to us one of much gratification. That a society has prolonged its existence there since 1835 without pastoral superintendence, except during the short period that our Irish missionary ministered to them, shows constancy, consistency, and steadfastness possibly not equalled in modern times in the experience of this Church. On that ground the congregation in Dublin has a strong claim on our sympathy; and as Synod prefers Dublin as the place where the work of an Irish Mission shall be prosecuted, that preference furnishes an additional reason why we should cherish that little station, Dublin.

Report of Irish Mission.

and, at an early period, have settled in it an able, acceptable, and devoted minister. The presence of such a minister would greatly aid and encourage us in prosecuting our mission work there; and a zealous and able mission agent, labouring among Romanists and others, could render valuable assistance to the pastor in leading him to families who would gladly receive his visits, and in guiding strangers to the house of worship. Until a pastoral settlement can be made, a Scripture-reader or licentiate may be employed, and so we may be preparing for more extended labours.

"The idea of abandoning this mission has never been entertained; recent events and changes all point in the opposite direction. The events that have recently occurred on the Continent have been of a nature to produce doubt and bewilderment in the minds of Romanists, while legislation at home should certainly not aggravate, but rather tend to subdue, evil passions, and produce a better state of feeling between Protestants and Romanists.

Difficulties.

"These, however, are minor considerations, and have but a very limited influence on the working of an Irish Mission. The difficulties to be surmounted in this work are much the same in all countries and at all times. They lie in the nature of the Antichristian system, which adapts itself and commends itself to the corrupt nature of mankind—so compact, so complete, with resources so abundant and instrumentalities so varied, all wrought with amazing tact and energy. The success that has attended the efforts of the propagandists of the Romish Church in Great Britain especially furnishes matter for grave consideration, and may well excite apprehensions of no cheering nature in regard to the future of these lands. No doubt their success there is mainly owing to the corrupt state of the Prelatical Protestant Church. In Ireland, where all the Protestant Churches are more Anti-Romanist, and the Prelatical Church is more evangelical, the Antichristian Church has much to do to maintain her ground. On the Continent her recent losses have been great, and are likely shortly to be on a much larger scale.

"We must not forget that, as a Church, we are specially engaged to do our utmost, by all Scriptural means competent thereto, to labour for the extirpation of this monstrous combined system of heresy, superstition, idolatry, and oppression. In love to the souls of them who are connected with it, we earnestly seek that they may be delivered out of Babylon, that so they may not be partakers of her plagues.

"This mission has strong claims on us. Our resources being small, it is more competent to us to prosecute a mission

in our native land than in a foreign field, and possibly with results not less satisfactory. Report of Irish Mission.

"In all our efforts to advance the kingdom of Christ, our reliance must be on Zion's King. Not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit accompanying the labours of faithful and devoted men, does God remove error and establish truth and righteousness. We cannot do what we would; let us, however, do what we can, earnestly desiring the salvation of men to the glory of the Saviour, and we may expect His blessing on the work."

With reference to Dublin, it was resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to use his endeavours to obtain an Agent for the Irish Mission as soon as possible. If a Licentiate or Minister, he shall preach and perform any services competent to him, in the congregation of Dublin, and be supported from the time of his appointment by the stipend of the congregation, supplemented from the funds of the Irish Mission. The payments from the Home Mission to be continued till the Agent shall begin his labours. Dublin.

XXV. The Deputation from the Scottish Synod was introduced by Mr. Russell. Mr. McDonald and the Rev. James Kerr addressed the court at some length. The following resolution was moved by Dr. Houston, seconded by Dr. Dick, and passed, viz.:— Sc. Deputation heard.

"Synod have had very sincere gratification in welcoming to its present meeting the Rev. James Kerr and Mr. John M'Donald, Elder, as a Deputation from the sister Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland—have heard with great pleasure the statements which they have given of the condition and prosperity of the Church which they represent, and especially respecting the enlarged liberality of its members. Synod renew their expression of cordial interest in the work in which their esteemed brethren in Scotland are engaged, and in all the tokens of the Divine blessing with which they have been followed—and assure them that they shall always regard it as a high privilege to co-operate with them in efforts for the advancement of the great ends of our own and fathers' Covenant."

It was also moved by Dr. Houston, and seconded by Dr. Dick, that the Moderator and Mr. Hugh Cheyne, Elder, be appointed a Deputation to the Scottish Synod at its next annual meeting.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. Nevin, seconded by Mr. Mackeown, that no deputation be sent for the present year.

After some discussion, the motion and amendment were put to the vote, and the motion was carried.

The Moderator addressed the Deputation, and then adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 22d June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed business, the Rev. G. Douglas conducting devotional exercises.

Mr. Caldwell present.

XXVI. Mr. Caldwell, Ruling Elder, from Philadelphia, U.S., being present, was cordially invited to sit and deliberate.

Reports of Presbyteries.

XXVII. Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and given in, as follows:—

I.—NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Northern.

The Northern Presbytery of the R. P. Church report that, during the past year, they have held four meetings—all of which were characterized by unanimity and brotherly love.

The days of Thanksgiving and Humiliation appointed by Synod have been duly observed in all our congregations. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been dispensed, and the collections for the various schemes of the Church have been taken up.

Students.

Messrs. Warwick and Lyons, Students under care of Presbytery, have finished their Literary and Theological Course, and have given in the pieces of trial required by the Plan of Education; but, as neither of these young men has conformed to the law of Synod, which requires a degree in Arts of all candidates for the ministry, the Court does not feel warranted in licensing them without first referring their case to Synod for advice and counsel.

Presbytery has under its care the following Students, viz.:—Messrs. William Dick, A.B., George Gilmour Warwick, John Lynd, and Alexander M'L. Stavely Lyons.

JOHN HART, Moderator.
WILLIAM TOLAND, Clerk.

II.—SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of S. Presb.

The Southern Presbytery report that they have held five meetings—four quarterly and one special meeting. One of these was a Visitation of the Congregation of Grange. At this Visitation meeting, matters in the Congregation of Grange were found to be highly satisfactory.

Religious ordinances have been regularly dispensed in all the congregations having stated pastors. In the vacant congregations and missionary stations as large a supply of preaching has been kept up as the circumstances of the Presbytery permitted.

Licence. At the meeting of Presbytery on 2nd May, Mr. Isaac Thompson, B.A., was licensed to preach the Gospel.

Calls. A call from the vacant Congregation of Newry has been presented to Mr. Thomas Cleland, Licentiate, which he has declined to accept. The congregation obtained moderation in another call, which issued unanimously in favour of Mr. Isaac Thompson. This call, duly attested and sustained by Presbytery, was presented to Mr. Thompson, who has sought time to decide.

Rev. S. Simms. At the meeting of Presbytery on 1st November, the Rev. Samuel Simms tendered his resignation of the Congregation of Loughbrickland into the hands of the Presbytery. His continued infirmities have rendered him unfit for pastoral duties for more than two years. Owing to Mr. Simms's long-continued illness, with little prospect of his restoration to health, Presbytery accepted his resignation, and took the usual course, preparing the way for the congregation to choose a successor. Subsequently they obtained a moderation in a call, which issued in favour of Mr. Thomas Cleland, Licentiate, which he declined to accept.

Presbytery nominate Revs. A. Savage and H. M'Fadden as members of Commission for the ensuing year.

Student. Mr. William Scott is the only Student under the inspection of Presbytery.

ALEXANDER SAVAGE, MODERATOR.
GEORGE LILLIE, CLERK.

III.—EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of E. Presb. The Eastern Presbytery has held nine meetings since last Synod. The ordinances have been dispensed in all our congregations as usual, and with like result. The increase in the number of licentiates has enabled us to give a fuller supply to our vacancies than they have sometimes had. The

Liverpool. Liverpool station has had its pulpit constantly occupied since last Synod, with very few vacant Sabbaths, and with satisfactory results. A memorial from this station, sanctioned by Presbytery, will be brought before Synod.

Manchester. Presbytery regrets that it can give but a very unsatisfactory report of the congregation in Manchester. At the meeting held on the 5th April, the pastor (Dr. Newell) and a commissioner from the congregation appeared before Presbytery, the latter in support of a paper from the congregation, submitted to the Court, in which were set forth the circumstances of the congregation and their pastor, and seeking an immediate dissolution of the pastoral relation—the congregation, meanwhile, bearing strong testimony to the ministerial

Report of E. Presb.

character of Dr. Newell, their esteem for him and attachment to him—he, on the other hand, declaring that the people had done their utmost to sustain him, and that he felt he could no longer refrain from taking the measures necessary to relieve them of an insupportable burden. Both parties maintained that to prolong the pastoral relation would greatly aggravate the evils to both, especially to the minister. Presbytery, believing the state of matters to be as represented, and hoping nothing from delay, did, on 5th April, dissolve the pastoral relation. A member of Presbytery was sent to occupy the pulpit on the Sabbath after Dr. Newell delivered his farewell discourse—to learn something of the condition of the congregation and the wants and wishes of its members. A congregational meeting was held, and well attended, the representative of Presbytery being present. He learned that Dr. Newell's stipend had been paid up till September next, and a present given him, and that £25 would settle all their accounts, except a debt of £300 on the Meeting-house, said to be value for nine or ten hundred pounds. From what transpired it might be inferred that the spiritual condition of the congregation is low. They appeared either to be in such a state of bewilderment as to have no definite idea of what they should do, or to be disposed, at least for the time, not to reveal to Presbytery their intentions. They have since forwarded their withdrawal from the jurisdiction of this Church.

Dr. Newell loosed.

Visitation, Bailliesmills.

The Presbytery of 5th April was held as a Visitation Presbytery at Bailliesmills, that congregation having recently been annexed to this Presbytery. The answers given to the inquiries made shewed that the pastor is efficiently and faithfully performing the duties of the ministry—that the congregation has grown in liberality, and is otherwise in so prosperous a condition as to furnish much cause for thankfulness to the Most High.

Serving on Juries.

The attention of Presbytery having been turned to the consideration of the law and usage of the Church in reference to members sitting on juries, Synod is asked to grant a brief private conference on this and some other subjects that may be presented.

Larne.

The very interesting little congregation of Larne is very desirous to get Synod to do something exceptional for them at the present time. Their case will come before Synod by memorial. Presbytery commends their application to the favourable consideration of the Court.

Temperance.

Presbytery has had the Temperance Reformation before it on several occasions, and sermons preached in all the congregations on that subject.

A call, from the Congregation of Killinchy, was presented to Mr. Cleland, Licentiate, on the 5th October, and refused. Call.

Mr. James Renwick Moody was licensed to preach the Gospel on 3rd August, and has since been filling appointments with acceptance. Licence, Mr. Moody.

The following Students are still under Presbytery's care:—Messrs. William Mayben and John M'Kee. Students.

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, Moderator.
WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clerk.

IV.—WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

The Western Presbytery report that, since last Synod, they have held five stated meetings and three *pro re nata*. Sealing and other ordinances have been dispensed and waited on with the accustomed regularity. Report of W. Presb.

At their meeting on the 2d August the call from 4th New York was presented to the Rev. James Kennedy. It was accepted by him, and he was loosed from the pastoral relation to the congregation of Newtownlimavady. Presbytery have been gratified to learn that he and his family have, since then, arrived safely in New York, and that he has met with very great acceptance there. Call to Mr. Kennedy.

The congregation of Newtownlimavady having applied for a moderation in a call, this was granted, and took place on the 19th of January, when a perfectly unanimous call was issued to Mr. Thomas Cleland, B.A., to become their pastor. The call was subsequently accepted by Mr. Cleland, and, after having submitted the usual trials, he was, on the first day of this present month, ordained to the work of the ministry and the pastorate of Newtownlimavady. This settlement has been effected amid circumstances of the happiest and most hopeful description; and Presbytery's desire and prayer is, that their young brother may long be spared to labour with much success among a people whose confidence and affection he has succeeded in winning so largely in such a comparatively brief period of time. It is with great satisfaction that Presbytery note the fact that the congregation of Newtownlimavady have come forward in a spirit of enlarged liberality in making provision for the support of their minister, thus setting an example worthy of imitation throughout the Church. Call to Mr. Cleland. Ordination.

Presbytery have gratification in reporting, that the Broady congregation also have made a permanent addition of £15 a year to their minister's stipend. Broady.

Early in September a memorial was presented from a congregation in Stranorlar, previously in connection with the Stranorlar.

Report of W. Presb.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, praying to be received into the fellowship of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. This was presented as the unanimous desire of the congregation. While Presbytery received the memorial favourably, they were not disposed to act in this important matter with undue precipitation or without further inquiry. At the same time no difficulty was felt in so far acceding to their wishes as to make provision for sending them occasional supplies of preaching. At the November meeting, a second memorial, to the same purport as the first, was presented—this time accompanied by a copy of a formal declinature of the authority of the General Assembly, which had been given in to the Donegal Presbytery, under whose supervision they had formerly been. At this meeting a commission with Presbyterial powers was appointed to proceed to Stranorlar on the 29th November—the day to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving—and, after sermon, to hold a conference with the assembled congregation. Should the way seem clear, as the result of this conference, the Commission was authorized to receive them into the communion of the Church. Copies of our Terms of Communion were previously distributed among the members of the congregation. The Commission went to Stranorlar on the day appointed. After service, the Terms of Communion were read, and explanation offered. Extracts from the Testimony were also read. The peculiar principles and position of our Church were plainly and fully stated. The names of the communicants were then called over, from a list which had been prepared, and they were asked individually, did they assent to the Terms of Communion. One member only answered, that he desired some time to consider. All the remaining members who were present distinctly assented, in answer to their name. There was no opposition. The Commission then considered themselves justified in giving the right hand of fellowship to the Elders and a few members, as representing the congregation. It was left to the Session, when duly constituted, with a member of Presbytery as Moderator, to admit in a similar manner the members of the congregation not present on that occasion.

Stranorlar.

Application for aid.

At the meeting of Synod's Commission in March, a memorial was presented, by advice of Presbytery, from the congregation of Stranorlar, asking a grant of £50 per annum out of the Home Mission Fund, to enable them to seek the settlement of a pastor among them. At a meeting of Presbytery on the 28th of the same month, they sought moderation in a call. Considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, Presbytery deemed it right to grant this request. A call was

moderated in on the 25th of April, and issued most unanimously in favour of Mr. R. A. M'Farlane, M.A., B.D. The call has been sustained by Presbytery, but not yet presented, pending the action of Synod in reference to the grant sought from the Home Mission Fund. Presbytery desire to express their mind in the strongest manner in favour of such a grant, and in the way of commending the matter to the favourable consideration of Synod. Call to Mr. M'Farlane.

A communion was dispensed at Stranorlar on the 4th Sabbath of May, when the attendance of members of the congregation was very encouraging.

J. W. MACKEOWN, Moderator.
R. NEVIN, Clerk.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA.

The Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report that, during the past year, they have held one meeting. The ordinances of the Church have been observed with the usual regularity, and not without some encouraging tokens of the Divine favour. A few accessions have been made to membership, whilst some congregations have been numerically weakened by emigration and death. The fields of labour continue nearly the same as at last report, and present nearly the same aspect. Presbytery deeply regret that the paucity of labourers forbids the entrance upon other fields inviting and promising. Report of N. B. and N. S. Presb.

A. M. STAVELY, Moderator.
J. R. LAWSON, Clerk.

XXVIII. In reference to the case of Manchester, the following resolution was moved by Professor Dick, seconded by Mr. Savage, and passed unanimously:— Manchester Congregation.

"That this Synod is both surprised and grieved that a majority of the members in the Manchester congregation should have sent forward a document purporting to be a declinature of our authority; after all the pains we have taken to furnish supplies of Gospel ordinances, and all the encouragement we have given them to obtain a stated ministry. We cannot do otherwise than declare, that those members have acted contrary to the duty they owe to the Head of the Church and to this Court. And, as we are fully informed, that the title deeds of the house of worship secure the entire property in it to the remaining members, who are determined to abide in the testimony and fellowship of this Church:—Therefore resolved, that a Committee be appointed to inquire after and foster those members, and take such steps as the future movements of the majority may call for."

The Committee appointed, in accordance with this resolution, and to carry out the object of it, consists of—Mr.

Chancellor *(Convener)*, Dr. Dick, Mr. Mackeown, Mr. Savage, Mr. S. Clugston, Mr. H. Cheyne.

Rev. S. Simms.

XXIX. A paper was handed in, on the part of the Southern Presbytery, in which it was stated that the Loughbrickland congregation had entered into a written engagement to give the Rev. Samuel Simms £20 a year during the remainder of his life, as a retiring allowance—asking Synod to supplement this out of The Aged Ministers' Fund, so as to provide an adequate support for him in his declining years—and authorising Mr. Savage and Mr. M'Fadden to act for the Presbytery in this matter before the Commission and the Synod.

Mr. Simms to get £30 *per ann.* from A. M. F.

Synod resolved that Mr. Simms' name be put on the list of beneficiaries of The Aged Ministers' Fund, and that he receive £30 a year during the remainder of his life.

Report of Theol. Hall.

XXX. The Report on the Theological Hall was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. John Hart, seconded by the Rev. Thomas Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.* The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL, SESSION XVII., 1870-71.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall report that the Seventeenth Session was opened on Friday, the 18th November, 1870, the new building not being in a state of readiness to admit of the opening taking place on the 8th of the month as contemplated by Synod. Eight Students were enrolled—one of the 4th year; three, of the 3d; two, of the 2d; and two of the 1st. The Committee examined on the subjects prescribed for intersessional study, and the answering was satisfactory. The 1st December was fixed for giving in Bursary Essays, and it was left to the Professors to arrange for the Bursary examinations as might suit their own convenience. The opening Public Lecture had been delivered on the evening of Wednesday, the 16th, by Professor Dick, on "The Holy Scriptures—the Words of God, and the Words of good Men."

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Lectures and Examinations.

I. EXEGETICAL AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY.—*Five Lectures*, on Paul's Passive Ministry and the Epistles of the Imprisonment. *Five Lectures*, on Hebrew Literature. *Four Lectures*, on Revelation and Inspiration. *Twelve Lectures*, critical and expository, on the Epistles to the Philippians and Titus. *One Lecture*, at the conclusion, subject, Considerations on a Divine Call to the Ministry.

Report of Theol. Hall.

II. HEBREW.—1. *The Senior Division* read critically Isaiah xlv.—liii., inclusive, with references to the Septuagint, Vulgate, &c.; and also, "The last words of David," 2 Sam. xxiii. 1—7; and David's Elegy on the Death of Saul, 2 Sam. i. 17—27.

2. *Junior Division*, Exercises in Hebrew Grammar, first four Psalms, and Genesis i., ii.

III. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—1. *Eleven Lectures*, on subjects connected with the history of the Church in the period from the 9th to the 16th century. *Two Lectures*, on the history of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, from the publication of the Testimony in 1761 to 1843.

2. *Examinations* in Mosheim, from the 10th century to the 15th, inclusive.

IV. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.—1. *Forty Lectures*, including the opening public one and three Expository on portions of Luke's Gospel. In the rest, were treated the doctrines of the perseverance of the saints—their participation of glory in this life, in death, at the resurrection, the day of judgment, and throughout eternity—and the endless misery of the impenitent. The course was then commenced anew. Natural Theology was considered, and Revealed Religion, in relation to the divine attributes, the Persons of the Godhead, and the decrees of God.

2. *Examinations*, on Turretin's Theology, vol. i.

V. MORAL PHILOSOPHY.—*Examinations*, on Wayland's Moral Science.

The Students were regularly examined by the Professors on the subjects of Lecture. They, for the most part, prepared essays on prescribed themes for each Professor on alternate weeks—gave public discourses—wrote a few outlines of sermons—and delivered some unwritten expositions of prescribed passages of Scripture

Bursaries awarded.

VI. BURSARIES.—The Senior Bursary for "A candid Review of Adair's History of Irish Presbyterianism," and examination on Buchanan on Analogy, was awarded to Mr. Isaac Thompson, B.A.

The Junior Bursary, for essay on "The Attainments of the Second Reformation in Church and State, and the Position of the Presbyterian Churches in the present day in relation to them"—with examination on Smeaton on the Atonement—was awarded to Mr. W. J. Maxwell.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Close of the Session.

The Session was brought to a close on Tuesday, the 14th March. The Professors examined on the subjects of study. The Committee expressed approbation of the answering, and tendered some counsels to the young men. The Professors

Report of Theol. Hall.

testified that the deportment of the Students was in accordance with their profession and prospects as candidates for the Gospel ministry. In the evening, the closing public Lecture was delivered by Dr. Houston, on "The Times that are passing over us—Our Duties and Responsibility."

CANDIDATES FOR LICENCE.

Examination for Licence.

Three Students presented themselves, in accordance with Synod's Plan of Education, to be taken under final examination in order to licence, viz.:—Mr. Isaac Thompson, B.A., of the Southern Presbytery, and Messrs. A. M. S. Lyons and G. G. Warwick, of the Northern Presbytery. They were examined—the examination sustained—and they were recommended to their respective Presbyteries as candidates for licence.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES—FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER, 1871.

Subjects for study in 1871.

I. COMMENCEMENT EXAMINATIONS.—All Students attending the Hall in 1871-72 will, on entrance, be examined on the following subjects:

HOLY SCRIPTURES.—Daniel—Chronology—The Four Great World Powers—the Connexion of the Church with each of them—The Prophecies respecting the Little Horn—The Mohammedan Power, and the Times of the End—The Prophetic Numbers, and the Connexion between Daniel and the Apocalypse.

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION.—Chapters xi. to xvi. inclusive.

HISTORICAL TESTIMONY.—Period VII. and Conclusion.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—Century XVI., to the death of Calvin in 1564—The Reformation in different European Countries—History of Romish and Lutheran Churches in that period—(Mosheim and Kurtz.)

HEBREW AND GREEK TESTAMENT.—Students of the First Year to be examined on "Tregelles's Heads of Hebrew Grammar"—and all the Students in Greek Testament—Acts of the Apostles—Chapter xx. to end—Paul's Passive Ministry and Martyrdom.

Students of the Second Year—Psalm xxv.—giving an account of the Alphabetic Psalms. Those of the Third Year to be examined on Exodus xxxii., xxxiii., and xxxiv.—in Hebrew and Septuagint.

BURSARIES.

Bursaries to be competed for.

The JUNIOR BURSARY is open for competition to Students of the First and Second Years. Subject of Essay—"Necessity and Importance of Covenant Qualifications in British Rulers." Examination on "Hetherington's Apologetics of the Christian Faith."

The SENIOR BURSARY to be competed for by Students of the Third Year. Subject of Essay—"Nations judged as

subjects of Moral Law, illustrated by history ancient and modern." Examination on "Crawford's Doctrine of Holy Scripture respecting the Atonement." Report of Theol. Hall.

The Students generally will be examined, at the opening of the Hall, on "Pearson on Infidelity"—People's Edition.

☞ The Committee of Superintendence wish the Students particularly to take notice that the Discourses and Class Exercises prescribed by the Professors, and the Essays for the Bursaries, are required to be in readiness at the opening of the Session of the Hall.

BUILDING FOR HALL.

The Committee have much pleasure in reporting that they found the accommodation for the Hall in the new building exceedingly good, and a vast improvement on what existed before. The members of the Church have done a good work in sustaining the hands of the Belfast congregation, when engaged in enlarging and improving their premises, by contributing as they have done for this purpose. This may account for some little diminution in the contributions towards the ordinary expenses of the Hall for the present year. For the first time there is a small balance due the Secretary. It is hoped there will be an improvement in this respect for the future. Hall Building.

XXXI. It was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Douglas, and agreed to—That, after the present year, the Bursaries shall not be taken from the Education Fund; that the members of the Church be encouraged to provide funds for this purpose; and that a larger grant be given to the Theological Library. Bursaries.

It was subsequently ordered that £15, for the present year, be given to the Library out of the Education Fund. Library.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 22d June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod met and resumed with prayer.

XXXII. The opening of the Theological Hall was fixed to be on the second Tuesday of November. Hall to Open.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Hall was appointed, to consist of— Com. of Superin.

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. A. Chancellor.	" Thomas Dick.
" J. Brown.	" G. Douglas.
" W. Toland.	" R. Nevin, *Convener.*

Days for Collections.

XXXIII. On motion of Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Douglas, the following were fixed as the days on which the collections for the various schemes shall be taken up in future :—

Home Mission—First Sabbath, October.
Foreign & Jewish—First Sabbath, December.
Hall & Synod Fund—First Sabbath, February.
Colonial Mission—First Sabbath, April.
Irish Mission—First Sabbath, June.

The first Sabbath of August being for any extra collection that may be ordered by Synod.

Report on Temperance.

XXXIV. The Report on Temperance was read by Mr. Chancellor. Its adoption was moved by Professor Dick, seconded by Rev. Thomas Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE—JUNE, 1871.

"The past year, in the cause of Temperance Reform, has been one of gratifying progress. The friends of the cause have shown no abatement of interest or of zeal on its behalf. The number and influence of its supporters, from year to year, is steadily increasing. There is scarcely an ecclesiastical body in the land that has not at length been constrained to cast the weight of its earnest testimony and prayer into the scale for its advancement. Men of high position and wealth and of acknowledged philanthropy, belonging to all the opposing sections, religious and political, into which the country is so unhappily divided, are generously exerting their talents and expending their resources in a united effort to promote the advocacy of this great Christian and patriotic cause. In fact, in the estimation of social and religious reformers of all classes, it is rapidly coming to be the leading question of the day. Every great measure of reform has to pass, it is said, through three stages; in the first it is ridiculed and hooted, in the second it is listened to and considered, in the third it is accepted and enforced. The late Henry Thomas Buckle, in his 'History of Civilization in England,' says: 'No great political improvement, no great reform, either legislative or executive, has ever been originated in any country by its rulers. The first suggesters of such steps have invariably been bold and able thinkers, who discover the abuse, denounce it, and point out how it ought to be remedied. But long after this is done, even the most enlightened Governments continue to uphold the abuse, and reject the remedy. At length, if circumstances are favourable, the pressure from without becomes so strong, that the Government is obliged to give way; and the reform being accomplished, the people are expected to admire the wisdom of

Progress.

their rulers, by whom all this has been done.' The cause of Temperance may surely be said to have passed through the first stage of its history. No man will affect to represent it now as one of trifling or even of secondary importance. No minister of the Gospel would dare to take his stand among its open opponents. No Church court can afford to ignore its existence, or even treat it with indifference. Not even in worldly and fashionable society can it be any longer ridiculed and bowed to the door. It has fairly and safely passed through the prolonged and severe ordeal of ridicule and scorn. The second stage of its history is now successfully and rapidly progressing; and the third, we fondly hope, is not altogether out of sight. Has not the ear of the nation been secured to the discussion of this question, and is not its great heart beginning to melt and move with mighty throbs and impulses of irrepressible emotion, as the appalling numbers, the distressing helplessness, and the far reaching, never ending miseries of the victims of intemperance are being marshalled to its view? The agitation has assumed already sufficient proportions to 'make the ruling few uneasy.' Government, after long and earnest consideration, has prepared and introduced a bill with the view of greatly restricting and keeping under closer inspection the liquor traffic of the country; and although this bill—in part or in whole—has been abandoned for the present, it is conceded, on all hands, that legislation on the subject has now become inevitable. Report on Temperance.

"The provisions of the new Licensing Bill for the purpose of reducing and controlling the sale of intoxicating drinks, are satisfactory so far as they extend, and if brought into immediate operation, would produce an immense change for the better over the whole country. It is universally observed and admitted that drinking habits, with all their fearful consequences, prevail in proportion to the temptations and facilities that are presented for their gratification. The Government Bill would remove a large proportion of those houses which are at present licensed for intoxicating purposes, and allow but a limited number in proportion to the population. In towns, for a licensing district containing a population under 1,500 inhabitants, it is provided that there shall be one publican's certificate; under 3,000, two; under 4,000, three; and so on, at the rate of one certificate for every additional thousand inhabitants. In the country, in a licensing district containing a population under 900 inhabitants, there shall be one publican's certificate; under 1,200, two; under 1,800, three; and so on, at the rate of one certificate for ever additional six hundred inhabitants. This arrangement would reduce the number of public houses in The Licensing Bill.

Report on Temperance.

Belfast from 700 to 175. In small market towns the change would be still more apparent. Besides the Bill would reduce the hours, both on week days and on the Sabbath, during which the trade may be carried on, and it provides a thorough system of inspection, and exemplary punishments. The great defects and blemishes of the Bill are that the public houses in existence, when the Bill becomes law, would be permitted to hold their certificates for ten years—that the trade is not altogether forbidden, and public houses closed on the whole of the Lord's day—and that the inhabitants in any district have not power, however much they might desire it, of reducing the number of public houses below the scale appointed by the Government, or even of removing them wholly from the district. However much we might welcome the enactment of the present bill, as committing the Government to legislation in the right direction, and as producing an immense improvement on the present system, we cannot express our approbation of any measure containing such radical defects, or rather such positive evils as those specified above.

Evils of the Traffic.

"The well-considered words with which the Home Minister introduced this Bill to the House of Commons are worthy of being recorded, confirming, as they do, the strongest utterances of the advocates of Temperance with regard to the iniquitous character and frightful effects of the liquor traffic, and admitting the power which persistent and well-conducted agitation must come to wield over all classes, whatever contrary prejudices or interests may be involved, on behalf of such a well-founded and necessary reform. He said—

'Every public-house tends to aggravate the public rates, and to create disorder; and it also causes an additional necessity for the police.'

'The measure which he was about to ask the permission of the House to explain was one which had been demanded by the general voice of the country with an earnestness and an unanimity to which he recollected hardly any parallel. The question was one which had stirred the hearts and feelings of all classes of society in this country. Committees of both Houses of Parliament, the Church in Convocation, ministers of every religion, judges and magistrates collectively and individually, boards of health and boards of guardians, had all united in proclaiming and impressing upon Parliament the mischiefs which had arisen from the excessive use of intoxicating liquors. Social and sanitary reformers, who spent their lives in doing good to their fellow-men, had declared that their labours for the moral and social improvement of their fellow-men were baffled at every turn by the recklessness and moral degradation which sprung from, and were occasioned by, the liquor traffic. Our prisons, lunatic asylums, and workhouses were filled with inmates whose career had originated in their passion for intoxicating liquors. The back streets, courts, and alleys of most large towns were thronged with a squalid and dangerous population who owed their degradation to the same cause.

and even the rural districts were not free from the curse. But, above all, the working classes of this country, who were the most affected by and felt most the consequences of this system, had with united voice called upon Parliament to deliver them from temptation. With regard to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill, he was bound to say he thought that measure contained a very valuable and wholesome principle, and that the principle of an appeal to the ratepayers on matters affecting their interests was one of which great use could be made. Over and above the fact that the ratepayers were the persons chiefly interested, that it was their comfort and convenience and not that of other people that should be consulted, that they were the persons who bore the burden of all the crime and misery produced by the multiplication of those houses, and by their disorderly conduct—over and above those considerations there was another, and in his view a most important one—namely, the advantage of enlisting the minds and hearts and feelings of the people in the thorough consideration of that subject. Let them give the ratepayers a voice in that matter—let them give them the power in some way or other of deciding how far those houses should exist amongst them, and they would at once create a strong public opinion, they would at once create among them that sort of feeling which among the upper classes of society had long made drunkenness disgraceful, which was rapidly also making it disgraceful among the working classes themselves, and which no longer permitted them to call a mere sot a good fellow, or to look upon the offence of drunkenness as merely venial. He was satisfied, therefore, that if they were to create a wholesome and vigorous public opinion on that subject, they must give the ratepayers of the country some direct interest in it, and that the wider spread that interest was the greater would be the social advantage.'

Report on Temperance.

"In the production of a right state of public feeling and opinion on this question—such an opinion as must ultimately lead to thorough and permanent legislation—the Church of Christ should take the foremost place. And the more pure and faithful a church professes to be, so much the more should she realise her responsibility and power, and so much the more efficient and unsparing should she prove herself to be in furthering this work. She should, first of all, stand perfectly free from all participation in the traffic, if she would consistently oppose the intemperance that springs from it and be free from the blood of men. Then her own office-bearers and members should be known to be enlightened and consistent examples of true Scriptural Temperance. But even this would not be enough. 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.' 'Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but in a candlestick; and it giveth light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before

Duty of the Church.

Report on Temperance.

men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.'

Duty of Individuals.

"Whatever may be the opinion of individuals as to the precise teaching of God's Word with regard to the use of wine and other intoxicating drinks, it will scarcely be disputed that we have a right to abstain, and solemnly to pledge ourselves to abstain, from the ordinary use of such drinks. Nay, it will be generally admitted that, in the present state of society, this is our duty; and that this course of action alone is calculated to meet and remove the inveterate and tremendous power which drunkenness is wielding in the land; and that it is the course best calculated to secure our own personal purity, usefulness, and stability. But, as it would not be proposed by any one to make the Church a Total Abstinence Association, it is obviously necessary, if she would not permit this work to pass from her own control into the hands of others, to form voluntary and distinct associations under her own direction and control for its promotion. The Church, by faithful preaching and the strict and prompt application of oversight and discipline, can certainly purge and keep away drunkenness from her own membership. But if she would go outside these narrow lines, if she would reclaim the drunkard and restore wanderers who have already fallen away from the means of grace—if she would train up the young to habits of abstinence and of resistance to this giant evil from the first—if she would combine her energies and efforts with those of other bodies in arousing and enlightening public opinion, and in taking common measures for the withdrawal of legal sanctions from a system which has proved itself to be the greatest obstacle and adversary to the cause of Christ and of human well-being in these lands, and which is continually overspreading them with a lava-torrent of crime and pauperism, of disease and insanity, of wretchedness and death, then she must avail herself of special Abstinence Associations, which are not in any respect unscriptural, but merely extra-ecclesiastical.

Good Templars.

"During the past year there has been imported into these countries, from America, a new society, of a very peculiar and objectionable character, for the better promotion of the Temperance cause. It is called the Society or Order of Good Templars. Although a secret association, it has been accepted with extraordinary readiness by some of the most zealous friends of this cause, and it has been referred to, without a single note of warning or of disapprobation, even by some Presbyterian Churches. On this account, and because inducements will be held out to young persons who are ardent promoters of temperance to identify themselves with

Report on Temperance.

it, we are constrained reluctantly to call attention to the evil and danger of such an association, even when instituted to serve a purpose of unquestionable importance.

Secret Societies Evil.

"Secret societies seem to have derived their origin and the leading features of their organization and ritualism from ancient heathen mythology. So far as we can learn, the Christian religion is constitutionally ignored by them all; and they are to be regarded rather as rivals than as auxiliaries to the Church. In the published Constitutions of Good Templarism, the members are only required to believe in 'the existence of Almighty God as Ruler and Governor of all things,' and take the Temperance pledge for life. With regard to the character and working of all such societies, it is sufficient for us to know that even the persons who have been 'initiated' by certain mysterious rites and ceremonies—not known to the uninitiated—cannot be admitted to the lodge meetings without the secret 'Password,' and they are solemnly bound not to divulge the business, transactions, signs, passwords, or the 'private works of the Order.' An organisation of such a dark and dangerous character cannot be necessary to the success of any good cause, but seems utterly repugnant to the teaching of God's Word, to the freedom and manliness of the Christian character, and to the whole spirit of the religion of Christ. For a member of the Church to enter such an association on the ground of a profession, which even Deists would not object to, looks like a virtual renunciation of Christianity. No object, however good, and no success in the prosecution of that object, how great soever it might be, can redeem such an association from the gravest suspicion and condemnation.

Suggestions.

"We would suggest once more that Synod should enjoin on the Ministers and Ruling Elders of the Church the strictest watchfulness over the flocks committed to their care, that they may be kept as far removed as possible from the terrible danger and disastrous effects of intemperance, and that not even one known or reported case of drunkenness should be allowed by any Session to pass without some suitable action. Also, that ministers should be required to preach on this subject on or about the third Sabbath of December, and that the proceeds of the ordinary collection on that day be devoted to the cause of Temperance."

Dr. Houston moved the following resolution on this subject, which was seconded by Mr. Russell, and also passed, unanimously, viz.—

"Synod, regarding with the deepest interest the energetic, and, to a large extent, successful efforts of the advocates of the Temperance Reformation in these and other countries, renew, in the most solemn

Temperance.

manner, their emphatic and unanimous protest against the drinking customs of the day—condemn the Liquor Traffic and Licensing System, as it now exists, as essentially evil, and justly chargeable with demoralizing and in every way injuring society, preventing the purity and efficiency of the Church in the earth.

"Synod, moreover, express once more their cordial approval of the principle of the Permissive Bill, and their sincere gratification in the progress which this great cause has recently made in the public sentiment and Legislature of the nation, and their decided testimony in favour of such legislation as will effectually prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors on any part of the Christian Sabbath."

Foreign Correspondence.

XXXV. The copy of a letter to the Synod in the United States of America, and a reply from them, were read. Synod manifested a special interest in this correspondence, and ordered it to be printed with the Minutes.

Imposition of Hands.

XXXVI. In relation to the question respecting the imposition of hands in the ordination of Ruling Elders, it was decided that the clause in the Book of Order and Discipline should stand thus—"by prayer, or prayer and the imposition of the hands of the Session."

Some other slight emendations were made upon the draft of the Book of Discipline, until the hour for adjournment came.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 23d June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod met and resumed, Mr. Brown conducting devotional exercises.

Records of Presbyteries.

XXXVII. The Committee on Records of Presbyteries reported as follows:—

"Your Committee appointed to examine the Records of Presbyteries report, that they have examined them—that they are correctly kept—and that the contents are in accordance with the law and order of the Church.

"GAWIN DOUGLAS, *Convener.*"

Serving on Juries.

XXXVIII. A Committee, consisting of Messrs. Chancellor, Russell, Mackeown, and Nevin (Mr. Chancellor, *Convener*), was appointed, to consider the question of serving on juries and report to Synod at next meeting.

Colonial Mission.

XXXIX. The Clerk of Synod stated that Dr. Newell, before leaving, had sent him some documents connected with the business of the Colonial Mission, and the balance of cash on hand, after making the usual payments for the financial year, except a grant to Mr. Moore to be considered by Synod. There was no formal Report, but by letters from the Missionaries, portions of which were read, it appeared that the state of matters in the Colonies, remained very much as it had been.

Grants to Missionaries.

XL. A grant of £20 was made to the Rev. A. M. Moore, and of £10, as last year, to each of the missionaries in the North American Colonies.

Mr. Brown, Col. Sec.

XLI. The Rev. James Brown was appointed Secretary of the Colonial Mission, in room of Dr. Newell. The Clerk of Synod was instructed to write to Dr. Newell for the books of the Mission.

Geelong Manse.

XLII. On motion of Dr. Houston, Synod earnestly recommend to the different congregations under its care to make contributions, with as little delay as possible, to aid our esteemed brother, Rev. A. M. Moore, and his congregation, in freeing the Manse which they have recently erected of a debt which presses heavily upon them.

Spanish Evangelization

XLIII. Dr. Houston having made some statements in relation to the progress and present claims of the work of Spanish Evangelization, and having requested that, if possible, a special collection should be ordered to be made throughout the Church for this object—Synod recommended that the Ministers and Elders should present this case to the members of the Church, and should endeavour to obtain from their liberality aid for this most important undertaking.

Trustees' Report.

XLIV. The Trustees of Synod reported respecting the Funds and investments. They appeared to be in a satisfactory state.

Death of Mr. Joseph Clarke.

XLV. Mr. Russell and the Clerk were appointed to draw up a minute to be entered on the records of Synod in reference to the decease of Mr. Joseph Clarke, the Clerk being instructed to transmit a copy to the family. The following minute was subsequently recorded :—

"Synod cannot let this meeting pass without expressing their deep sense of the great loss sustained by the courts of this Church through the death of Mr. Joseph Clarke, Ruling Elder, one of the members of Synod's Board of Trustees, and, from year to year, a member of Commission of Synod, who perished with the steamship Cambria, off the coast of Donegal, in December last. He was punctual in attending the courts of the Church, assiduous in his attention to business, judicious in council, and energetic in action, gentle and conciliatory towards his brethren, of much public spirit, and exceedingly amiable in all the private relationships of life.

"We express our deep sympathy with the bereaved widow and family of our departed brother, and pray that our Father in heaven may sustain them under this painful dispensation, and that they and we may be enabled to draw from it the practical lessons it is adapted to teach. There is often an awe-striking mystery connected with the exercise of the Divine sovereignty, but it is our consolation to know that the Disposer is holy in all His ways, and righteous in all His works."

The appointment of a Trustee in the room of Mr. Clarke was postponed till next meeting of Synod.

Book of Discipline.

XLVI. Synod renewed a general approbation of the Book of Government and Discipline, in the form to which it had now been brought, and ordered 200 copies to be printed and sent to congregations, it being still considered subject to further revision.

Commission Appointed.

XLVII. The Commission of Synod was appointed as follows:—

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	" C. K. Toland.
" J. Brown.	" R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
" A. Savage.	Mr. S. Clugston.
" H. M'Fadden.	" James Glenn.
" T. Houston, D.D.	" James Reynolds.
" J. A. Chancellor.	" Thomas Henry.

The meetings of Commission were appointed to be in Belfast, on the third Wednesday in November, and the second Wednesday in March.

Preachers' Appointments.

XLVIII. The following scale of appointments for Licentiates was made out:—

	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Mr. M'Farlane	W.	E.	W.	N.	S.	W.	N.	W.
Mr. Hurst....	S.	E.	S.	3 N. 2 E.	S.	S.	N.S.	E.
Mr. M'Knight	E.	W.	E.	W.	E.	S.	S.	E.
Mr. Moody ..	2 N. 3 W.	S.	E.	S.	E.	E.	W.	S.
Mr. Lyons ..	N.	S.	N.	S.	N.	2 N. 3 E.	E.	S.N.
Mr. Thompson	3 E. 2 S.	N.	N.S.	E.	W.	N.	E.	N.

Notice of Motion.

XLIX. Professor Dick renewed his notice of motion to restore the question relating to the Acts of Assembly in favour of the Reformation, 1638—49, in the Formula put to candidates for licence and ordination.

Final Adjournment.

At 2.30, p.m., the Moderator briefly addressed the court, and Dr. Dick, at his request, engaged in prayer, this adjourning the sessions of Synod till the third Monday of June, 1872.

ATTESTED BY

ROBERT NEVIN,

Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Synodical Officers.

Moderator.

Rev. JAMES D. HOUSTON, B.A., Coleraine.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. James Dick, D.D., Ballymena.

ECCLES. HIST., PAST. THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener*.
Dr. Hurst.
Mr. James Meharg.
Mr. Samuel Clugston.

General Treasurer.

Mr. Samuel Clugston, Antrim.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin.
Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener*.
Rev. A. Savage.
Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.
COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.
IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.
FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.
THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. R. Nevin, Londonderry.

N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

The Commission of Synod.

Commission.

The Moderator.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.
" J. Brown.
" A. Savage.
" H. M'Faddon.
" T. Houston, D.D.
" J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.
" C. K. Toland.
" R. Nevin, *Clerk*.
Mr. S. Clugston.
" James Glenn.
" James Reynolds.
" Thomas Henry.

Temperance Association.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

Committees.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.	,, W. Toland.
,, Thomas Dick.	,, G. Douglass.
,, James Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod.

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. J. W. Mackeown | Rev. T. Cleland.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTTISH SYNOD.

The Moderator. | Mr. Hugh Cheyne.

Synodical Appointments.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. Brown.
Rev. Prof. Dick.	,, G. Douglas.
,, W. Russell.	,, R. Nevin.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Pro. Houston, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE ON MANCHESTER CONGREGATION.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Rev. A Savage.
,, Prof. Dick.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, J. W. Mackeown.	,, H. Cheyne.

COMMITTEE ON SERVING ON JURIES.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Rev. J. W. Mackeown.
,, W. Russell.	,, R. Nevin.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

COLLECTION for Home Mission, ...1st Sabbath, October.
,, ,, For. and Jewish, ...1st Sabbath, December.
,, ,, Hall and Synod Fund,....1st Sabbath, February.
,, ,, Colonial Mission, ...1st Sabbath, April.
,, ,, Irish Mission, ...1st Sabbath, June.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 14th Nov., 1870—Closes Tuesday, 12th March, 1872.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 15th Nov., 1871; and Wednesday, 13th March, 1872.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 30th November, 1871.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 25th January, 1872.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, Monday, 17th June, 1872, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

NORTHERN—As occasion requires.

SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

WESTERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.—As occasion requires.

	Congregations.	Ministers.	Members.	Stipend.	Manse or Travelling Expenses.	Collected, 1871.	Collected, 1870.	Total, 1871	Total, 1870	Supplement. 1871.	Supplement. 1870.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SELF-SUPPORTING.	Baillieswill	T. Dick	140	100 0 0	....	2 10 0	6 0 0	102 10 0	106 0 0	....	....
	Ballenon	A. Savage	255	75 0 0	....	2 7 0	2 11 6	77 7 0	77 11 6	....	....
	Ballyclabber	J. D. Houston	150	80 0 0	Manse.	3 9 6	2 16 3	83 9 6	82 16 3	....	....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	90 0 0	....	3 12 0	5 0 0	93 12 0	95 0 0	....	....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	260	230 0 0	....	39 10 0	37 10 0	269 10 0	267 10 0	....	....
	Bready and Mulvin	C. K. Toland	210	100 0 0	4 0 0	7 12 0	7 10 0	111 12 0	111 10 0	....	....
	Convoy and Donegal	J. W. Mackeown	173	100 0 0	3 0 0	7 15 0	6 1 6	110 15 0	109 1 6	....	....
	Creivagh	G. Douglas	180	100 0 0	....	3 7 6	3 9 8	103 7 6	103 9 8	....	....
	Dervock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	100 0 0	....	5 0 0	5 3 6	105 0 0	105 3 6	....	....
	Drimbolg	.....	250	70 0 0	....	4 0 0	3 9 0	74 0 0	73 9 0	....	....
	Faughan	J. P. Sweeney	195	70 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 6 3	73 0 0	73 6 3	....	....
	Kellswater	J. Dick	235	100 0 0	....	12 0 0	11 0 0	112 0 0	111 0 0	....	....
	Killinchy	.....	36	45 0 0	....	3 0 0	2 0 0	48 0 0	47 0 0	....	....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	160	100 0 0	....	4 13 0	5 5 2	104 13 0	105 5 2	....	....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	250	110 0 0	Manse.	8 0 0	12 0 0	118 0 0	112 0 0	....	....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	100	140 0 0	Manse.	7 0 0	7 0 0	147 0 0	147 0 0	....	....
	Loughbrickland	.....	134	80 0 0	....	2 6 0	....	82 6 0	80 0 0	10 0 0	....
	Manchester	.....	..	....	....	....	2 10 0	....	220 6 8	7 2 0	....
	Newry	.....	80	80 0 0	Manse.	2 2 6	2 0 0	82 2 6	82 0 0	....	....
	Newtownards	R. Allen	87	100 0 0	Manse.	2 4 10	2 5 10	102 4 10	102 5 10	....	....
	Newtownlimavady	T. Cleland	244	140 0 0	....	4 0 0	5 0 0	144 0 0	105 0 0	....	....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	250	75 0 0	....	3 12 0	3 13 6	78 12 0	78 13 6	....	....
	Ringrash	.....	40	17 0 0	....	1 2 4	1 9 0	18 2 4	18 9 0	....	....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	94	50 0 0	....	10 10 4	10 5 0	60 10 4	60 5 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Ballylane	H. M'Fadden	112	50 0 0	....	2 7 0	2 8 0	52 7 0	52 8 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
	Cloughmills	.....	12	6 0 0	....	1 0 0	....	7 0 0	....	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Donegal	J. W. Mackeown	13	12 0 0	....	2 15 0	2 0 0	14 15 0	14 0 0	6 5 0	6 5 0
	Dromore	.....	28	15 0 0	....	1 3 0	1 1 6	16 3 0	16 1 6	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dublin	.....	18	21 0 0	....	....	0 14 0	21 0 0	21 14 0	25 0 0	8 0 0
	Fairview	G. Lillie	45	50 0 0	....	2 15 5	2 4 0	52 15 5	52 4 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Garvagh	J. Hamilton	100	50 0 0	....	3 0 0	2 12 6	53 0 0	52 12 6	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	60	40 0 0	....	3 16 0	3 16 0	43 16 0	43 16 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Larne	.....	20	20 0 0	....	1 0 0	1 2 7½	21 0 0	21 2 7½	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Lisdonnar	.....	9	6 0 0	....	0 10 0	0 7 0	6 10 0	6 7 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Liverpool	.....	20	80 0 0	....	2 2 0	....	82 2 0	....	25 0 0	....
	Magherafelt	.....	30	10 10 0	....	2 0 0	2 0 0	12 10 0	12 10 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Mulvin	C. K. Toland	38	15 0 0	....	3 11 0	3 5 0	18 11 0	18 5 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Stranorlar	.....	80	50 0 0	....	....	....	50 0 0	....	5 0 0	....

Home Mission Account for year ending 30th June, 1871.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance, July 1st, 1870 ..	£151	0	7½	By Ballyclare ..	£25	0	0
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	23	10	4	" Ballylane ..	20	0	0
" Interest on various Deposits	3	2	10	" Cloughmills ..	5	0	0
" Bailiesmill ..	2	10	0	" Donegal ..	6	5	0
" Ballenon ..	2	7	0	" Dromore ..	5	0	0
" Ballyclabber ..	3	9	6	" Dublin ..	25	0	0
" Ballyclare ..	8	19	4	" Fairview ..	25	0	0
" " Society Box ..	1	11	0	" Garvagh ..	25	0	0
" Ballylaggan ..	3	12	0	" Grange ..	25	0	0
" Ballylane ..	2	7	0	" Larne ..	10	0	0
" Belfast ..	3	7	0	" Lisdonnan ..	6	0	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society ..	36	3	0	" Liverpool ..	25	0	0
" Bready ..	4	1	0	" Loughbrickland ..	10	0	0
" Cloughmills ..	1	0	0	" Magherafelt ..	10	0	0
" Convoy ..	5	0	0	" Manchester ..	7	2	0
" Cornwallis ..	1	8	7½	" Mulvin ..	5	0	0
" Creivagh ..	2	7	6	" Stranorlar ..	5	0	0
" Mr. T. Henry's Donation	1	0	0	" Printing Report ..	3	0	0
" Drimbolg ..	4	0	0	" Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
" Dervock & Ballymoney ..	5	0	0	" Expenses of Commission, Secretary, Trustees. &c...	2	3	8
" Donegal ..	1	15	0	" Balance, 30th June, 1871 ..	109	19	2
" Dromore ..	1	3	0				
" Fairview ..	2	15	5				
" Faughan ..	3	0	0				
" Garvagh ..	3	0	0				
" Grange ..	3	16	0				
" Kellswater ..	11	0	0				
" " Antrim Society Box	0	11	0				
" " Ballymena " "	0	9	0				
" Killinchy ..	2	0	0				
" Kilraughts ..	4	13	0				
" Knockbracken ..	8	0	0				
" Larne ..	1	0	0				
" Lisdonnan ..	0	10	0				
" Loughbrickland ..	2	6	0				
" Liverpool ..	2	2	0				
" Londonderry ..	7	0	0				
" Magherafelt ..	2	0	0				
" Mulvin ..	1	9	0				
" " Aldoghle Society ..	1	2	0				
" " Miss Adams's Donation	1	0	0				
" Newry ..	2	2	6				
" Newtownards ..	2	4	10				
" Newtownlimavady ..	4	0	0				
" Bathfriland ..	3	12	0				
" Ringrash ..	1	2	4				
" Miss King, Donegal ..	1	0	0				
" Mr. J. Hewitt, Killinchy	1	0	0				
" Belfast Young Men's Society ..	1	0	0				
" Mr. David Bates, per Rev. J. P. Sweeney ..	4	0	0				
" Bequest of late Walker Graham, Carryduff ..	9	0	0				
	£355	9	10		£355	9	10

Colonial Mission Account for the Year ending June 30, 1871.

Dr.			
To Balance as per last Report ..	£43	11	6
" Lisdonan Collection for 1870 ..	0	10	0
" Cornwallis Do. ..	2	11	9
" Mrs. Graham's Legacy	9	0	0
Collections for 1871.			
" Bailiesmill ..	2	0	0
" Juvenile Miss. Ass.	1	6	10
" Ballenon ..	2	11	2
" Ballibay ..	2	15	9
" Ballyclare ..	2	11	7
" Ballylaggan ..	3	4	0
" Ballylane ..	2	0	0
" Barnesville, N.B. ..			
" Belfast ..	4	14	4
" Bready ..	3	2	10
" Cloughmills ..	0	10	0
" Coleraine ..	3	3	0
" Convoy ..			
" Cornwallis, N.S. ..			
" Dervock & Ballymoney	4	10	0
" Donegal ..	1	10	0
" Drimbolg ..	2	14	5
" Dromore ..	1	0	0
" Dublin ..	0	17	3
" Fairview ..	1	3	6
" Faughan ..			
" Garvagh ..	1	2	6
" Grange ..	1	4	0
" Horton, N.S. ..			
" Kellswater ..	9	0	0
" Killinchy ..	1	10	0
" Kilraughts ..	4	13	4
" Knockbracken ..	8	0	0
" Larne ..	0	16	0
" Lisdonnan ..	0	10	0
" Londonderry ..	8	0	0
" Loughbrickland ..	1	15	6
" Magherafelt ..			
" Manchester ..			
" Mulvin ..	0	15	6
" Newtownards ..	1	7	6
" Newtownlimavady ..	2	11	2
" Rathfriland ..	3	12	9
" Ringrash ..	0	14	6
" St. John, N.B. ..			
" Wilmot, N.S. ..			
" Mr. A. Christie, London	1	0	0
" Belfast Juv. Miss. Ass.	15	5	8
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation ..	23	4	10
" Donation of Mr. J. Hewitt, Killinchy ..	1	0	0
	£181	11	2

Cr.			
By Rev. A. M. Moore's Life Policy ..	£6	2	6
" Christian Work and other Publications ..	1	19	6
" Report in *Covenanter* for 1870 ..	3	0	0
" Rev. J. R. Lawson ..	30	0	0
" " Robert Stewart ..	30	0	0
" " Wm. Somerville ..	10	0	0
" " A. M. Stavely ..	10	0	0
" Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
" Proportion of Travelling Expenses of Commission ..	0	12	1
" Circulars, Postage, &c ..	0	11	10
" Rev. A. M. Moore ..	20	0	0
" Rev. W. Somerville ..	10	0	0
" " A. M. Stavely ..	10	0	0
" " J. R. Lawson ..	10	0	0
" " R. Stewart ..	10	0	0
" Balance on hand ..	28	5	3
	£181	11	2

General Financial Statement.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Received from former Treasurer, at Synod, of 1870,		£1227	16	5	Paid One Year's grant to Rev. J. A. Smyth	£30	0	0
" Dr. Hurst, his Donation of		1000	0	0	" Proportion of the Cost of Trust Deed	8	18	0
" Do. balance of Interest thereon		58	6	8	" Proportion of the Cost of Books and Expenses	0	12	0
" Interest on Loans, &c.		87	14	11	Balance now at Credit of this Fund	2343	8	0
" Bequest of the late Mr. Walker Graham, Bailiesmills		8	0	0				
" Bequest of the late Mr. Edward Hall, Londonderry		1	0	0				
		£2382	18	0		£2382	18	0

MR. HENRY'S DONATION.

Amount at Credit of this Fund at Synod of 1870	£1000	0	0	Paid to Home Mission	£23	4	10
Received interest on Loan	49	3	4	" Colonial Mission	23	4	10
				" Proportion of the Cost of Trust Deed	2	8	2
				" Do. Books and Expenses	0	5	6
				Balance now at credit of this Fund	1000	0	0
	£1049	3	4		£1049	3	4

BICENTENARY FUND.

Amount at Credit of this Fund at Synod of 1870	£482	15	6	Paid to Syrian Mission of American R. P. Church	£24	0	0
Received interest on Loan, &c.	23	12	2	" Proportion of the cost of Trust Deed	1	3	2
				" Do. Books and Expenses	0	2	10
				Balance now at credit of this Fund	481	1	8
	£506	7	8		£506	7	8

EDUCATION FUND.

Amount at credit of this Fund at Synod of 1870	£480	1	9	Paid grant for Bursaries	£10	0	0
Received interest on Loan, &c.	22	11	6	" Do. for Theological Library	8	0	6
				" Proportion of the cost of Trust Deed	1	1	2
				" Do. Books and Expenses	0	2	10
				Balance now at credit of this Fund	483	9	3
	£502	13	3		£502	13	3

AUSTRALIAN MISSION FUND.

Amount at Credit of this Fund at Synod of 1870	£204	14	5	Paid proportion of the Cost of Trust Deed	£0	9	6
Received interest on Loan, &c.	3	5	2	" Do. Book and Expenses	0	1	4
				Balance now at credit of this Fund	207	8	9
	£207	19	7		£207	19	7

SUMMARY.

				Synod's Trustees hold the following securities:			
At credit of Aged Ministers' Fund	£2343	8	0	Derry Bridge Commissioners' Bonds, bearing interent at 5 per cent.	£3000	0	0
" Mr. Henry's Donation	1000	0	0	Mortgages on Houses and other freehold Property, at 6 per cent.	1200	0	0
" Bicentenary Fund	481	1	8	Deposit Receipts of Building Societies, at 4 per cent.	273	6	5
" Education "	483	9	3	Do. Ulster Bank, at current rates	35	0	0
" Australian Mission Fund	207	8	9	Balance in hands of Treasurer	3	1	6
	£4515	7	8		£4515	7	8

Antrim, June 1st, 1871. SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Treasurer.

We have examined above Accounts, and found them correct,

JAMES REYNOLDS.
SAMUEL AIKIN.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Moderator and Members of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of America :—

DEAR BRETHREN—On behalf of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland—one with you in the covenant and testimony of our common Lord and Saviour—we hereby transmit to you, in Synod assembled, our most affectionate salutations ; and earnestly wish to you, and to the whole church represented by you, grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Your last communication was read by us with special interest, not merely because of the spirit of unabated brotherly affection which it breathed throughout, and of the cheering intelligence concerning your zeal, harmony and success in the Lord's work which it conveyed, but because it announced that you had sent to us the Rev. Joseph Hunter, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, as we can now testify from ample intercourse with him of the most refreshing character, who made known to us all your affairs and greatly comforted our hearts. That we are not able to send to you such living epistles of Christ, to be present occasionally at your annual meetings, is felt to be a source of grief and loss to ourselves. But all the more highly, on that account, do we appreciate the visits to our shores of such brethren beloved as have come to us from you, from time to time in the past ; and our earnest desire is, that such intercourse may be often renewed in the future, as the following resolution adopted by Synod at its last meeting will once more make known to you, namely :—"That we welcome the Rev. Joseph Hunter amongst us, and express the unfeigned satisfaction with which we have listened to his most interesting address. It is, moreover, our earnest prayer that the Christian intercourse and fraternal relationship which have so long existed, without interruption, between the two churches, may continue, and their bonds be strengthened as the years advance, in the maintenance and diffusion of the principles of our Covenanted Reformation."

We have much satisfaction in informing you that no breach by death has been made in the circle of our ministerial members, during the past year. Two of our ministers have been laid aside from old age and infirmity, for some time; and the Rev. James Kennedy has been transferred to your ranks, on a call from one of your congregations. Deeply sensible as we are of the loss sustained by us in the removal of a minister so justly beloved and valued by us all, as well as by the removal, from year to year, of many of our most useful and promising members, we yet cannot allow ourselves to refer to such losses with any feeling of mere selfish regret. Though lost to us, we rejoice to know that they are not lost to the cause and testimony of Christ, which is also our

cause wherever it is propagated over the wide earth. As you claim a full share in the precious heritage secured to us by the noble contendings and sufferings of the great army of martyrs in these lands, and entailed upon their posterity forever in holy covenant made with and ratified by the unchanging Jehovah; so, in maintaining a constant sense of our living oneness and thrilling sympathy with you by the sending of our baptized youths, and occasionally of our trained and equipped ministers, to recruit your ranks, we would feel as if all your noble enterprises and persistent efforts to promote the moral elevation and national reform of the American people, by securing in the civil constitution an acknowledgment of the grand principle of the martyr's testimony, were our own; and we would hope in due time, to have some share in the victories and renown with which such efforts shall certainly be crowned. For such is the blessed unity of the body of Christ, though oceans for a time may roll between its increasing and outspreading membership, that "whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." We admire the zeal, boldness, and fidelity which you evince in the cause of Christ; we thank God for the great door and effectual he has opened unto you, though there are many adversaries; we pray fervently for your continued success and prosperity as for our own; and in the name of God the Lord we wish you to be blessed.

But, dear brethren, while we would thus rejoice in your joy, how can we refrain from mingling our tears of sorrow and sympathy with yours, when we think of the great and sudden bereavement wherewith it has pleased God to visit you as a church? But last year your foreign mission report began with grateful acknowledgments of God's special goodness in preserving the lives and health of your mission band on the shores of Syria for so many years, and we heartily joined with you in those congratulations. We were hastening all our arrangements for placing, during the present summer, one of our probationers, who has given himself to foreign mission work, for the necessary training and guidance under your senior missionary, whom we had come to know so well and to love so dearly, not only from the brief visit he made to us, but from his ordinary communications from the mission field. How suddenly have our hopefulness and joy been turned into sadness! When the news was so unexpectedly flashed to us that Dr. Dodds was dead, we could not but exclaim, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" We felt his loss and mourned over it, as if it had been peculiarly our own. But, dear brethren, though this stroke may be felt to be very heavy and stunning by you, let it not be supposed for a moment that the work of God is to be retarded or arrested thereby. God changes his workmen and calls them to rest, one after another, but His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth for ever. Dr. Dodds, your honored and gifted missionary, having

finished his life-work in Syria, has, in his death, taken possession of its soil in Christ's name and in yours, and it must never again be relinquished to the foe. We are happy at this moment to be able to intimate, that we hope, in a few months, to send an accomplished and promising young missionary to join the reduced and sorrowing staff of your mission at Latakiyeh. Mr. James Martin, who has been licensed for some time to preach the gospel, and has now completed his studies for obtaining a medical degree, has placed himself at the disposal of the church, and we trust will prove a valuable auxiliary to the agents of your mission.

It is with the highest satisfaction, dear brethren, we anticipate that, at your first meeting of Synod, you will enjoy the high privilege and honor of formally entering into solemn public covenant with God, and thereafter of sitting down together at the communion table, to commemorate the infinite love of God in Christ to you, and to feast together on the priceless blessings of the everlasting covenant, to which you will have so solemnly joined yourselves. We have marked with admiration the manner in which you have been led, in the all-wonderful providence of the church's Head, to engage in this distinguished duty—the spirit of wisdom, faithfulness, and harmony displayed in the various steps of preparation thereto—and the general expectation that seems to pervade the whole church, with regard to the increased spiritual blessings arising from its right observance. This expectation we consider from our own experience, as well as from the testimony of the ages that are past, and many assurances of God's word, to be well founded; and it is our earnest prayer and hope that, in your case, it may be amply and gloriously realized. As you stand before God, for the first time, in this solemn and most momentous transaction, so suggestive of a glorious future both for yourselves and for your country—as you lift up your hands with your hearts in open appeal and adjuration to God in the heavens—we shall not cease pleadiug for you, that that promise may be remarkably fulfilled, "They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, the Lord is my God." As you sit down together on the Sabbath, in the breaking of bread, may you realize more than ever, that ye being many are one bread and one body, being all partakers of that one bread! And at the close of this most interesting service, may it be recorded of you, as of the elders of Israel after a similar act of public covenanting, "And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink!"

The stupendous changes that are taking place over the face of Europe, with their direct bearings on the future of Christ's kingdom and the predicted destinies of mankind, which are fast making the times which are now passing over us among the most impor-

tant and memorable in the annals of the world, are as well known to you as they are to us. Moreover, the many interesting phases and tendencies of public opinion and of national legislation which challenge attention in these lands, are substantially the same as those with which you have long been familiar. On the whole, we have much reason to thank God and take courage. The long-established evils against which our fathers testified are gradually passing away. The long-predicted ameliorations for which they so earnestly prayed and contended are gradually coming to be realized. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." In the midst of this glorious transition period, with what solemn interest should the witnesses for Christ hear the words which so long ago were addressed to Daniel: "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR, *Moderator.*
R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

BELFAST, 8th May, 1871.

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

DEAR BRETHREN—Your communication of May 8th has been received and read before our Synod. We cordially reciprocate your fraternal salutations. May the blessing of God be upon you. We bless you in the name of the Lord.

As a Synod we have enjoyed unusual and signal blessings upon this occasion, for which we desire to attest our gratitude, and to say among all people, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." You are aware that arrangements were made a year ago to carry out the long neglected duty of covenant renovation. Although this action was entirely unanimous, yet being contingent upon the approval of the Bond then sent down in overture, and various difficulties and objections having arisen in the minds of some, we gathered together from the various parts of the church with conflicting emotions and great uncertainty. During our discussions more than once it seemed certain that we must postpone our proposed renovation or go forward with many standing aloof. But God was wiser than we, and not only disappointed our fears, but made the very circumstances we deprecated and mourned, to promote our preparation for and our harmony in our solemn work. All the conflicting sentiments were by the Spirit's guidance removed and reconciled, except in the case of two ministers, only one of whom was a pastor, and one ruling elder. The rest of the Synod and a number of ruling elders who were present from various parts of the church, with nine candidates for the ministry, numbering in all 172 persons, with one heart and under a profound sense of the solemn circumstances in which God had placed us, stood up and with uplifted hand swore allegiance to our covenant Head, and pledged our faith to the moral obliga-

tion of the Covenants of the Second Reformation, and the grand attainments in Doctrine, Discipline, Government and Worship which they were honored to make.

We have already realized the benefit of our covenant engagements in the large attendance upon Synod secured thereby, in the brotherly confidence which has been strengthened, and in the spirit and zeal with which every interest of the church has been prosecuted; and we hope to record a general, earnest, and genuine revival of religion among all our people in connection with covenant renovation in the particular congregations. "Our God shall bless us, all ends of the earth shall fear him."

The year that is past has been marked by no prominent event among us, yet there is evident increase of devotion to the cause of Christ manifested in enlarged contributions, in the increased number of our congregations, and the additions to our membership reported by the various sessions. Four new congregations have been organized, and five vacancies have been supplied with pastors. Nearly 170,000 dols. have been contributed for religious purposes in carrying forward our church work. Five hundred persons have been added to the church by profession of their faith. The Theological Seminary had eighteen students in attendance during the winter, of whom five had completed their course and entered upon the work of preaching the gospel, with a success greatly increased by our present plan of licensing at the end of the third year and requiring their attendance another session thereafter. Four students of the third year are thus licensed to exercise their gifts this summer. Steps have been taken for the erection of a suitable building for the Theological Seminary this year, as a memorial of our covenant renovation, and, from the hearty and enthusiastic spirit evinced by the members of Synod, will doubtless succeed at an early day.

Our Foreign Mission received a heavy blow in the death of our honored and beloved missionary, Dr. Dodds; and through the entire church there have been lamentation and sorrow. Still we see in this the hand of our glorious King, and hear His voice saying to a noble and devoted servant, "Come up higher;" and we bow to His wise and gracious dispensation.

The Synod has determined not only to supply the vacancy thus caused, but also to reinforce the Mission by one minister and one female teacher. Two choice young men have been chosen, and will doubtless accept and go forth at an early day. Your cooperation with us is hailed with delight by us all, and will not only increase the power of the Mission, but will tend to bind us more closely in the bonds of unity and love.

Death has also made inroads upon our ministerial force at home. Rev. J. S. Buck, a young man who labored with great zeal and success for three years in our North-west Mission, has been taken from us to his reward. Rev. David Scott, our oldest minister, and

one whose ministry extended beyond the date of our division of 1833, has been taken home like a shock of corn ripe in his season. May these providences awaken in us all higher devotion to the Master, and greater diligence, while the day lasts, in doing His work.

It has afforded us no small gratification to welcome among us from your venerable Synod the Rev. James Kennedy, whom we had highly appreciated as a visitor two years ago, and who has now taken an honored place among us as a constituent member of our Synod. We heartily sympathize with you in the breach thus made in your ranks, and pray the Head of the church to more than fill up the number of your ministerial laborers and clothe them all with the spirit and power of our glorious Master. We, however, look upon his coming among us, as only a suitable complement to the other fact that scores of the sons and daughters of Ireland have come and are coming to our shores, many of whom, in our great lack of ministers, are scattered abroad as sheep without a shepherd. Our field of evangelizing labor is exceeding wide, and grows more rapidly than the number of candidates for the ministry; and, as never before, we need to cry mightily unto the Lord of the harvest to send us laborers because they are few.

We rejoice at the movements which from time to time are chronicled as being made in the Old World, recognizing in them as we do the operations of our exalted King, who is excellent in counsel and wonderful in working. We think we can plainly discern the near approach of that day when our King in vengeance, will go through the nations, smiting them with the rod of his wrath and avenging the afflictions and blood of his own children who have suffered untold sorrows from the kingdoms and dynasties of Europe. King Jesus will overturn and overturn until all power is given unto Him; and we pray that your covenanted kingdom—by repentance, and return to Him from whom it has so grievously departed—may be saved from the judgments threatened against guilty nations.

We are still laboring to avert from our land deserved destruction, and though many circumstances are unpropitious we are not wholly without hope, that by timely reformation our country may be spared such terrible scenes as are now transpiring in France, and which otherwise will justly come upon us.

Gladly, dear brethren, would we welcome any of you who may visit this country, and we hope ere long that some of your number may rejoice our Synod by their presence. In any event we hope, at least, for an annual letter which shall bring us good tidings of your welfare. Brethren, "Peace be to you all, and love, with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Yours in covenant bonds.

H. H. GEORGE, *Mod.*
R. Z. WILLSON, *Clk.*

PITTSBURGH, PA., June 1st, 1871.